

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. XLIX.]

HONGKONG, SATURDAY, 13TH MAY, 1899.

No. 19.

CONTENTS.

Epitome of the Week, &c.	385
Leading Articles:—	
Italy's Chinese Policy	386
The Post Office Written Messages	386
The Opening of the Inland Waters	386
China and the Disarmament Conference	387
The China Association and Spheres of Influence	388
Registration of Servants	388
Supreme Court	389
Affairs in the Philippines	394
Kowloon Rebels-Sentenced	395
Rebellion in Waichow and Chiuchow	396
Reviews	396
Hongkong Sanitary Board	396
Fire in Hollywood Road	397
Fatal Accident in the Harbour	398
The Plague	398
Water Return	398
A Marine in Trouble	398
Hongkong Cricket Club Lawn Tennis Tournament	398
Rifle Match	399
The Royal Hongkong Golf Club	399
A. S. Watson & Co., Limited	399
Olivers Freehold Mines, Limited	399
Straits Insurance Co., Limited	399
Jebeu Mining and Trading Co., Limited	399
The Extension of the Shanghai Settlement	401
China to be Represented at the Disarmament Conference	401
The Opening of Nanking	401
Railway in China	401
France Henry at Hankow	402
France Henry at Wuchang	402
Chungking	402
The French in Yunnan	402
The Shanghai Races	402
Affairs in Shantung	402
Serious Fire at Bangkok	403
Hongkong and Port News	404
Commercial	405
Shipping	407

MARRIAGES.

On the 29th April, at All Saints' Church, Kobe, by the Rev. G. H. Davies, WALTER GODFREY, eldest son of WALTER FEAST, of "Stanleybury," South Norwood, to EDITH MARY, youngest daughter of the late SYDNEY JAMES SMITHERS, of "Brooklin," South Norwood, Surrey.

By the Rev. F. J. Griffith, at St. Peter's, Chefoo, on the 1st May, 1899, WILLIAM MAY HOWELL, of Tientsin, to ISABEL LEGGATT, younger daughter of the late Rev. J. WILLIAMSON, of Ningpo.

On the 5th May, 1899, at the Austro-Hungarian Consulate-General, and afterwards at the Synagogue, by the Rev. Dr. Sinzer, assisted by the Rev. I. A. Sudka, IGNATZ POLLAK, of Shanghai, to JULIETTE SCHANZER, of Vienna.

DEATHS.

At Charlottenburg (Germany), on the 11th April, Mrs. ANNA D. MANNICH, dearly beloved wife of Jul. Mannich, Esq., late of Taiwanfoo and Hongkong. [1327]

At the General Hospital, Shanghai, on the 30th April, 1899, of typhoid fever, CARL SCHULTZE, aged 24 years, a native of Germany, and late of the Deutsch-Asiatische Bank.

On Saturday, the 6th May, 1899, at No. 1, Albany Gardens, Shanghai, MARION HELEN, daughter of F. E. WILKINSON, H.B.M.'s Consular Service, aged 6½ months.

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The French mail of the 7th April arrived, per M. M. steamer *Laos*, on the 7th May (50 days); the Canadian mail of the 17th April arrived, per C. P. R. steamer *Empress of Japan*, on the 8th May (21 days); the American mail of the 13th April arrived, per

T. K. K. steamer *Nippon Maru*, on the 10th May (27 days); and the English mail of the 14th April arrived, per P. & O. steamer *Chusan*, on the 11th May (27 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK

The port of Nanking was declared open to foreign trade on the 1st May.

A rebellion has broken out in Waichow and Chiuchow, districts contiguous to the Kowloon New Territory.

Mr. Detring, formerly Commissioner of Tientsin Customs, has been appointed to the same post in Chinwangtao.—*Mercury*.

The question of the extension of the general Settlement at Shanghai has at last been settled. The demand for an extension of the French Concession is still pending.

The case of the Bank of China against its Chinese shareholders at Shanghai will shortly be reheard before the new Taotai, who has asked the parties interested to fix a day for the rehearing.—*China Gazette*.

The *N. C. Daily News* says:—H.M. 1st-class battleship *Renown* is coming to China to relieve the *Centurion*, and the new Rear-Admiral will bring out one of the *Conopus* class of 1st-class battleships as his flagship.

The black flag chief, Liu Yung-fu, who is considered by the Chinese as a very able general, has been ordered to Peking by telegram. He will be given the command of the central division of the Wu Wei Army.—*Mercury*.

H.M.S. *Woodlark* was christened at Shanghai on 1st May by Mrs. Montgomerie and most successfully launched, gliding into the water like a bird. The function was arranged so hurriedly that there was no time to send out invitations, and there were only present H. M. Consul-General Mr. Byron Brenan, Capt. Montgomerie, R.N., and one or two others.—*N. C. Daily News*.

From many paragraphs appearing in the Japanese press, it is learned that the Home Minister has concluded to build new prisons in the open ports for the special use of foreign convicts, after the operation of the revised treaties. Upon the completion of the prisons, no foreign convict will be confined in prisons other than those proposed. The Minister is also reported to have drafted new prison regulations to replace the existing ones.—*Nagasaki Press*.

It is stated that a regulation will shortly be issued by the Agricultural and Commercial Department in regard to the control of foreign insurance offices in Japan after the new Treaties come into force. By this regulation any foreign insurance company carrying on business in the empire of Japan must appoint an individual or a committee to represent it in this country, having full authority to decide all matters relating to the company exactly as if the head office were established in Japan. Any company having more than one branch or agency in Japan shall appoint one as its representative, which shall take rank as the head office, and all the others will be regarded as branches or agencies.—*Kobe Chronicle*.

The War in Luzon is still being waged, the Filipinos continuing to offer a stubborn but ineffective opposition to the American advance. They have applied to General Otis for an armistice while a meeting of the Filipino Congress is held to consider the position, but the request has been refused, General Otis declining to recognise a Filipino Government or to enter into any negotiations except for an unconditional surrender.

The *British North Borneo Herald* reports that, in Palawan and elsewhere in the Southern Philippines, anarchy prevails now that Spanish authority has disappeared. The Americans have hardly taken any steps to occupy these distant islands. The *Herald* urges that, in these circumstances, some arrangement should be come to in order to establish a British protectorate over them. In its opinion, were some such arrangement to come about, the protectorate would most naturally be administered by the Government of British North Borneo.

The British battleship *Victorious* was safely docked at Yokohama at 4 p.m. on the 25th April. The Japanese authorities at Yokosuka are entitled to a great deal of credit for the manner in which the difficult task of docking the *Victorious* has been at length successfully accomplished. At the time of her arrival at Yokosuka, the *Victorious* drew 28 feet 6 inches, and the authorities would not receive her till she was lightened up to 25 feet. This of course necessitated removing guns, water tight doors, coal, water, ammunition, and even the crew and their outfits. Finally her draught was brought to 24 feet 11 inches and she was then docked. After she is cleaned and painted, the whole of the fittings, weighing about 700 tons will have to be replaced.—*Japan Mail*.

The coolie traffic from China just now is very brisk, and during last month no less than thirteen thousand coolies arrived in Singapore. Some twenty years ago the carrying of coolies was almost entirely in the hands of Straits owned vessels, but, since the decline of the China tea trade, even mail steamers are not above carrying them, whereas in former days a coolie would not be allowed on board one of them. It used to pay in former years, said a veteran commander of a vessel running up to China, the other day, to risk bringing down a couple of hundred passengers more than the ship was allowed to carry, when the passage money ranged from \$20 to \$25 per head, but in these days when the rates get so low as \$3, the game is not worth a candle.—*Singapore Free Press*.

The *Japan Times* reports that a Buddhist monastery, more than 1,200 years old, has been destroyed. The temple referred to is Choryo-ji in Kami Kori, Mino Prefecture. Of many costly treasures in its possession the most valuable was the Issaikyo, or the collection of all the sacred writings of Buddhism, presented to the monastery by Emperor Shomu, which is said to have been brought direct from India. It was the only set in the country. Only 154 of the 265 cases of these books were saved. The seven sacred images which had eyes set in diamonds were also burned. It is said 40,000 yen were offered once by an American for them. The lost treasures being mostly of precious metals, their ashes are being sifted under the supervision of the police. The entire damage is estimated at two million yen.

ITALY'S CHINESE POLICY.

(Daily Press, 6th May.)

Reuter's message announcing the resignation of the Italian Ministry in consequence of a division of opinion on the Chinese policy of the Government is interesting, but it leaves us in some doubt as to what were the points of difference between the Government and the opposition. The Government were, we believe, pledged to seek the acquisition of a port in China, over which the flag of Italy was to fly and a sphere of influence be thereby secured for Italian enterprise. The port of Sanmun on the coast of Chekiang was selected, and a demand for its lease duly formulated by the Italian Minister in Peking. In this demand Italy was to receive the passive (if not active) support of Great Britain; but, as our readers are aware, the Tsungli Yamen at once became bold and refused to lease any territory to Italy, and the Italian Minister, misinterpreting his instructions, proceeded to issue an ultimatum, which ended in his recall. Meantime a squadron had been ordered out to China to back up Italian demands, and sundry warships have arrived in China waters, while others are said to be *en route*. But the whole thing was mismanaged, and the Chinese Government, probably moved thereto by certain of the Foreign Ministers, have taken up (for such an invertebrate *corpus*) quite a determined attitude. The fact that Denmark, Belgium, and Austria-Hungary were credited with ambitions for settlements on the coast of China also no doubt helped to stiffen the backs of the mandarins, and at any rate confirmed them in opposition to the demands of Italy.

But what is the policy of the large minority referred to by General PELLOUX in the course of the debate in the Italian Parliament? Do they approve of the proposal to acquire for Italy what other European Powers have gained in China, but are of opinion that some one has blundered in the negotiations and caused the prestige of Italy to sustain a damaging blow? Or do the minority represent that public in Italy which, disgusted with the results of the little effort of Italian colonisation in Africa, is hostile to any further experiments in colonisation abroad? This party argues that Italy's interests in China are small and that any attempt to found a colony there would only entail a further addition to the burdens already laid on the Italian exchequer. In this respect no doubt there is something to be said. With the exception of a small share in the silk trade Italy has practically no commercial relations with China, and one of the Italian papers, evidently hard pressed to discover the importance of Italian interests in China, made a great point of the very large and important Mission maintained by Italian money in Hupeh. Whatever may be the views of this large minority, their action has certainly availed to upset the Cabinet. Probably the ministers were not sorry to find a pretext for resigning, and thus casting on to the opposition the responsibility of settling the rather awkward problem which the unexpected indocility of the Tsungli Yamen has opened up.

When the demand for a lease of Sanmun was first made the Italian Government had no idea, we imagine, that any grave objection would be raised by the Tsungli Yamen. This is the first real check that has for several years been offered by the Peking Government to foreign demands. But it cannot be denied that the rebuff given to Italy has served to stay

other demands. Only the other day the Premier speaking in the Hungarian Diet said that there was no present intention on the part of Austria-Hungary of acquiring territory in China, and nothing further has been heard of the Belgian desire to secure a port in China. No doubt Austria-Hungary, like Italy, is only biding her time, as the moment does not seem propitious for urging any claim, but for the present the Chinese Government have staved off what they conceive to be a difficulty. Whether that respite will prove long or short will depend probably on their own course of conduct, but the trend of politics recently has been distinctly favourable for China. Great Britain and Germany, Great Britain and France, and last, but certainly not least in importance, Great Britain and Russia have arrived at agreements, which will at least have a tendency to preserve peace and prevent aggression. At the same time it will be well for the Tsungli Yamen to take heed that they do not attempt to break faith with any of the Western Powers or seek to neutralise the concessions made, for the Powers will be less minded than ever to brook violations of the Treaties. Instead of being able to play off the Powers one against the other, as was so successfully done of late, the Chinese Ministers will find them more or less united in insisting upon the Treaties being observed and reparation being promptly made for injuries or losses sustained.

THE POST OFFICE AND WRITTEN MESSAGES.

(Daily Press, 8th May.)

A notification appears in the *Gazette* to the effect that the officers of the Post Office cannot undertake either to affix stamps to correspondence or to see that servants purchase or affix the proper amounts; nor can they undertake to find articles intended for registry which have been posted as ordinary correspondence without asking for a receipt at the time. It is added that "servants to whom correspondence for registration is entrusted should be told to ask (orally) for a receipt, and not to give up the article until they have made it understood that one is required. Nothing else will do. Messages in chit-books or on pieces of paper generally escape attention until it is too late to attend to them." But would it not be possible, by some small addition to the staff of the Post Office, to arrange a system by which it might be possible to communicate with the Post Office by writing? Under the present Postmaster-General there is an evident desire to place the department on a satisfactory footing and to meet the public convenience, and we would suggest to Captain HASTINGS that this question of the attention to be given to written communications might with advantage receive reconsideration. The matter is not one that very much affects commercial firms, who usually have properly trained messengers to send to the Post Office, but for private residents, and especially ladies, it is a distinct disadvantage that they cannot send a note to the Post Office with any certainty of having it attended to. A public department, we take it, should be adapted as far as possible to local conditions, and in Hongkong the conditions are such as to render it necessary to send in writing many messages that in a European country would be delivered orally. The average coolie does not understand English sufficiently well to be able to deliver a message in that language by word of mouth,

and consequently the message has to be written. Nor is it an easy matter to make a chair coolie understand that he is not to give up a letter intended for registration until he has obtained a receipt for the same, as those who have tried the experiment know to their cost. The coolie, with his limited intelligence, cannot conceive of any higher form of receipt than the Post Office "chop" on his chit-book or chit-paper, and with that he will return to his employer with a happy consciousness of duty faithfully performed, no matter what detailed instructions may have been given him as to getting a receipt in proper form. The consequence is that letters sent for registration and so marked are posted as ordinary correspondence, the only receipt the sender obtains being the Post Office stamp on the chit-book, which signifies simply that the coolie has handed a letter in. The messages requesting registration, we are officially informed, "generally escape attention;" but the word "registered" written across the letter would not be likely to escape attention should the letter happen to fall into the hands of a dishonest postman, in which case it would constitute a direct uncentive to theft. We are told in one paragraph of the Postal Guide that the Post Office declines all responsibility for unregistered letters containing bank notes or jewellery and where registration has been neglected will make no enquiries into alleged losses of such letters, and at the same time we are also told that written requests for registration will not be attended to.

THE OPENING OF THE INLAND WATERS.

(Daily Press, 8th May.)

The truth with regard to the so-called opening of the inland waters of China seems at last to have filtered home and a gradual perception that the concession is not what Lord CURZON led them to suppose it was is apparently gaining ground in the House of Commons. Colonel WELBY in this connection raised the very important point of the right of foreigners to reside at other places than Treaty Ports, and the Government promised that this matter should receive their attention. But the most pertinent question was that put by Mr. ASCROFT, who asked the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether he was aware that the Chinese Government had restricted the freedom of navigation of these waters in such a way that steamers plying between two Treaty Ports could not avail themselves of the privileges? He is also reported to have added the question whether it was correct that a steamer engaged in the inland waters trade might not go beyond the next Treaty Port, but as the second restriction is covered by and included in the first question, there does not seem to have been much use in putting the second query at all. Mr. BRODRICK's reply was to the effect that no such restrictions as those referred to were contained in the regulations for the navigation of the inland waters as received from Her Majesty's Minister at Peking and published in the recently issued Blue Book (China No. 1, 1899).

In view of the attention we have given to the opening of these waters, and the numerous articles published on the subject in our columns, we view with satisfaction the awakening interest being taken in the matter at home. In the East we have so far succeeded that our leader of the 26th January was the means of calling the atten-

tion of the Shanghai community to this highly important subject, and Mr. DUDGEON's letter addressed to the *N. C. Daily News*, wherein he refers to our leader as an able and interesting article, was in its turn taken up by the Shanghai Chamber of Commerce and made the basis of a representation to Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD. Mr. BRODRICK was doubtless correct in his reply to Mr. ASCROFT, but we regret that so misleading an answer should have been allowed to pass unchallenged. It is true that the restriction referred to is not contained in the Regulations as published in the Blue Book, but if the Supplementary Rules issued by the Chinese Government for the working of these water had been looked at it would have been plainly seen that these restrictions were implied and understood as the basis of them. Surely Mr. BRODRICK, if he gave the matter that consideration which he stated was being given to it, would see that the Regulations stating that the waters were open are not sufficient to enable a shipowner to start steamers under them. He must know that all goods in China are taxed and that the taxes on them have to be paid somewhere and somehow, and that any Rules or Regulations which do not expressly provide for the amount to be paid and the place where it is to be paid must of necessity become a nullity. The result of the transit pass *tsoli* might have taught him that, if he was unaware of it from other sources. Hence it is we say his answer was entirely misleading, and we regret to see that it passed unchallenged. If Mr. ASCROFT had taken the trouble to refer to the very Blue Book that was quoted in answer to his question he would on page 252 have found the Yangtze Regulations, wherein, as we have again and again pointed out, certain places called "ports of call" and others "passenger stations" are provided along the course of that river where steamers running from one Treaty Port to another may stop and land or embark passengers or cargo, and that consequently it follows that these places being specified no others can be so used, and that this, in its turn, involves the logical conclusion that vessels running between treaty ports are not entitled to inland water privileges. This point we have frequently emphasized, but even at the risk of being tedious we would again point out the importance of it to all those, be they merchants or Ministers, who have any interest in the legitimate expansion of trade that must result from the unrestricted circulation of goods by steam power. Hitherto this circulation has been restricted in every possible way, and not least in supporting the antagonistic attitude of the Chinese Government have been our own officials. We will take as an illustration these same "ports of call," etc., on the Yangtze. Months have been spent over drawing up rules under which cargo can be landed or loaded at them. The Rules are doubtless very able productions from a diplomatic point of view, but the great, and to the bulk of people, important fact remains, that no cargo ever is landed or loaded at them. The cargo belongs to Chinese who are willing enough to give the carriage of it to steamers if they can obtain any assurance as to what they will have to pay in the way of duties provided they do so. The assurance is forthcoming quickly enough as regards the duty payable to the I. M. Customs, but when in addition to that the merchant is told that his goods will be subjected to *lekin* before shipment and after discharge it is not to be wondered at that he declines to avail himself of the disadvantages of steam traffic.

We may remark in passing that the "passenger stations" at which vessels may stop, as published by the British Government in the Blue Book (page 252) and as published by the Chinese Customs do not agree. "Tungchow," or, as it is sometimes called, "North Tree," is omitted from the former; but this is about what might be expected when we see in the Inland Water Regulations that the word "small," having reference to steamers, was erased by the Minister as being unnecessary, and in the Regulations when published we find the expression "not of a sea-going type" has been allowed to be substituted for it. As Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD observed, "There is no necessity for the insertion of the word 'small.' The size of the steamers may safely be left to be decided by the necessities of navigation for the requirements of trade." We can only repeat his statement with regard to the expression "not of a sea-going type" and wonder which member of the Legation it was that allowed so important a restriction to escape his notice when translating the Chinese text of the Regulations into English?

No one can read through the pages of this last published Blue Book without seeing that the past year's work at Peking must have taxed the resources and energies of our Minister and his assistants to the utmost, and no one will, we are sure, begrudge Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD his well earned holiday, but in the fierce strife going on we cannot afford to let sentiment carry us away to the exclusion of more practical business considerations. Our contention has always been that in the opening of the inland waters of China the main point at issue, which is the placing of the carriage of the domestic trade of China on an equal basis of taxation, no matter what its means of transport, has been overlooked, and our contention is confirmed by what we find published in the Blue Book. In this, no reference is made to the Supplementary Rules which have been issued by the Customs. These, as we have pointed out in our previous articles, are the important point in the whole concession, and judging by the result it would appear that they are not satisfactory. We again repeat that before anything can be done the duties payable on cargo shipped in steamers and or in native boats must be published in full by the Chinese Government and means must be taken to ensure that they are levied on all alike. Why! the very point which Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD in the case of the Yangtze allows for the safeguarding of the *lekin* revenue, viz., that inland waters steamers shall only tow on that river when specially authorized to do so by the Customs, is being made use of by the *lekin* authorities on the West River to defeat the end he had in view. The *lekin* officials of Kwangtung, finding that revenue would surely be diverted from their pockets to the Imperial exchequer unless they devised some means whereby the quickness of steam carriage could be combined with the payment to them of duty on cargo carried, have arrived at that end by means of the very vessels which our Minister was careful to state, as an amendment to his Inland Water Regulations, should be authorized to tow by the Customs. These authorized steamers take in tow native boats coming under the *lekin* administration and by this means ensure that the cargo carried shall pay duty to the provincial authorities on a tariff which is alone known to those whose interest it is not to publish it. The absurdity of the statement made by Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD in his despatch

No. 469 when referring to the resolutions made by the Newchwang residents with regard to the inland waters is only too apparent to anyone familiar with the condition of things in China. He says (Blue Book, page 356) "The right exists; it is for the merchants to make use of it." This in spite of the fact which must have been well known to him at the time, that the amount of duties payable on those merchants' cargo had never yet been published or declared by the Chinese Government. Mr. BRENNAN the other day, in his reply to the Shanghai Chamber of Commerce, made a somewhat similar statement, the pith of his argument being "the waters are open, go ahead and use them," quite ignoring, like the Minister, the question of the amount to be paid in duties. The Minister may have done it through ignorance. We don't think Mr. BRENNAN could plead the same excuse!

The fact is we have had about enough of such diplomatic expressions as "the duties to be paid shall be the same as those paid by native craft or native goods," or something else equally vague, and it is about time we insisted on knowing what there is to pay and have it stated in hard dollars which admit of no discussion. Until that is done the British Government can rest assured that the opening of inland waters will remain the barren concession it has been up to date.

CHINA AND THE DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE.

(Daily Press, 10th May.)

That solemn farce the Disarmament Conference is to be attended by a Representative from the great and ancient empire of China. The casual reader of this announcement may be forgiven if, without sufficient consideration, he dismisses it as of no importance. China, he may agree, is vast in her dimensions, venerable in her antiquity, and her human products are as the very sands of the sea for number. The Celestial Empire contains therefore some of the first elements necessary to constitute a powerful and progressive state. If, indeed, her capacity for exercising potential influence were to be gauged by her area, resources, and population, her voice in the future parliament of nations would be a decisive one. But China is, for her size and number, the very weakest bundle of provinces held together by a central authority. The disintegrating forces at work in China may not, possibly, be more pronounced or more deadly than those which afflict some other states, but what she suffers conspicuously from is a lack of national feeling, the sentiment of patriotism as distinct from mere superstitious regard for ancestral graves and tablets, and an almost universal distaste and contempt for military service or any other career than that of a *literata*. The system of Government, patriarchal and in theory benevolent and liberal, is in practice a tyranny of the most corrupt kind conceivable, where the multiplication of taxes is only bounded by the limits of the mandarins' ingenuity, and the administration of justice is a mere farce. There is no personal loyalty to the Emperor; he is a mysterious entity secluded in a Palace at Peking, and his name is chiefly invoked to sanction some new tyranny on the subject or a fresh surrender to outsiders who are strong enough to threaten.

No wonder, therefore, that so invertebrate a body as China should have been omitted from the Conference. She was not reckoned with in counting the civilized

Powers. A country where the *ling chi* is retained among the list of punishments, where torture is relied upon to extract evidence in the Courts, where men are liable to be hunted down by avaricious mandarins in order to deprive them of their hoards, where justice is sold to the highest bidder, and where foreign treaties are regarded as covenants made only to be broken—it was hardly likely that the Government of the Czar would feel any call to invite such a country to a Conference whereat, in any event, it could find little in common with those Powers who profess to see in the proposals of the Emperor NICHOLAS some basis of agreement whereby they can at least avoid continuance in the present exhaustive competition for pre-eminence in military preparedness for the fray, otherwise the first hand in the game of bluff which now goes on in the Foreign offices of European States. The Chinese Government, curiously enough, appear to have felt somewhat slighted by being left out of the Conference, and LI HUNG-CHANG approached the Netherlands Minister on the subject, asking why China had not been invited to participate. Monsieur KNOBEL was no doubt rather taken aback by this direct attack, and wired to his Government on the subject. The result was that His Excellency promptly received instructions to ask the Chinese Government to send a representative. China is therefore to have a voice in the Conference and will save her face—the end she doubtless had in view—though it is pretty certain that her representative will be merely a lay figure in the discussions. The interests of China are of course entirely those of peace, but her views one way or another are of no earthly interest to any one, seeing that she is not a force to be reckoned with in politics. Until Japan pricked the bubble of her supposed strength, she certainly was regarded as a possible factor in Asiatic questions, but now she is looked on with thinly veiled contempt. Nevertheless, flabby and rotten as China undoubtedly is, she may still, by her very weakness, prove a disturbing element in the Far East. The tendency of her Government is to grow more and more reactionary, and it is quite possible that, by her barefaced attempts to evade the provisions of the Treaties or by her officials conniving at outrages on foreigners, she may at any moment invite attack in order to secure atonement for wrong inflicted. There will always be danger when any foreign force invades China; for such force would almost inevitably cause some conflict of interests or interference with trade, and thereby provoke trouble. China is therefore, though too senile to excite apprehension, capable of causing grave mischief, and though the inclinations of her Government may be in favour of peace the actions of her officials are liable at all times to contribute to misunderstandings and bickerings.

THE CHINA ASSOCIATION AND SPHERES OF INFLUENCE.

(Daily Press, 11th May.)

Outside official circles probably no two men exercise so much individual influence upon the course of British relations with China as the Chairman and the Hon. Secretary of the China Association, Mr. W. KESWICK, M.P., and Mr. R. S. GUNDRY. They, with the Committee, are the recognised medium of communication between the Imperial Government and the mercantile community interested in Chinese affairs; it is they who have to gather up the separate threads of opinion advanced

by the different branches and individual members, and give expression to the average opinion of the whole body. More than ordinary interest attaches, therefore, to what they have to say, especially when speaking in their official capacity at the annual meeting. It is significant, then, when we find both these gentlemen accepting the principle of spheres of influence, and Mr. KESWICK further recognising that spheres of influence are not necessarily incompatible with the principle represented by that much abused and misused term "the open door." No popular Shibboleth has ever been associated with more nonsensical talk than "the open door." For instance, until the other day Port Arthur was a closed port; now various mercantile firms are established there, the place is frequented by merchant steamers, and we are told that "the door has been shut, absolutely shut." So much for the open door and the closed door.

Mr. KESWICK, at the meeting of the China Association on the 4th ultimo, recognised that the establishment of spheres of influence was an accomplished fact, and that the influence exercised in these spheres was likely to become in course of time more pronounced. Looking at it from a commercial point of view, he said, "probably the best solution would be if we could by 'some international arrangement have the 'treaty tariff stipulations maintained by 'all nations, i.e., there should be a convention by which all nations should agree that throughout any territories they obtained, and throughout the whole length and breadth of China, the Tientsin tariff should be the one recognised by all the Powers. The tariff was a reasonable one, and if such an arrangement could be made he thought it would do away with a good deal of the apprehension which was felt with regard to what might be termed the 'closed door' instead of the 'open door.' He simply mentioned that as a solution which he thought would be a favourable one if it could be arrived at." That, we take it, is the solution toward which the course of events has for some time past been tending, and by favouring that course the British Government has done much more to secure an open door for trade than it would have done by supporting the Chinese Government in its natural policy of exclusion. Mr. GUNDRY was not quite so direct as Mr. KESWICK in his expression of opinion. He had to drop a tear of regret over the phantasm of the open door before frankly accepting spheres of influence, but this he did in the end. The Shanghai branch of the Association, he said, "had proclaimed, and the Hongkong branch had passed 'resolutions, deprecating spheres of influence as opposed to the policy of the 'open door; but he feared events had been travelling ahead of the steamer in which 'those expressions of opinions came home." Local critics of the Hongkong Branch's resolutions, published in January last, will smile at this polite but effective undercut. The *Daily Press* said at the time: "The 'attempted definition of the open door 'policy is not only unsuccessful, but—and 'we say it with all respect to the gentlemen 'forming the Committee—a complete 'absurdity." Mr. GUNDRY says the same thing, only says it much more nicely. Nor does Mr. GUNDRY appear to have any faith in Lord CHARLES BERESFORD's proposed quadruple alliance. Driven, then, to the recognition of spheres of influence, the question arose, he said, "whether it was not time for Great

Britain to accentuate her position in her sphere. People in this country had become accustomed to the idea that Great Britain had a lien on the Yangtze region; but what were we going to do with it? Was this Association prepared to advocate, was the nation prepared to support the Government in, accentuating our position to the extent of placing British officials alongside the Viceroy of Nanking, Wuchang, and Chungking, and helping them to do for the great provinces of Central China what we had done for Egypt?" That appears to be about what the Government and the nation are preparing themselves for, and a much more sensible policy it is than helping China to keep the door closed, as some of our local patriots would have had us do for fear that Russia might in her sphere secure some little advantage over ourselves.

As showing how far the recognition of the principle of spheres of influence has progressed we propose to give another extract from an erstwhile opponent of that principle. Referring to the stronger assertion of Germany's influence in Shantung the *London and China Express* says:—"Granted that our rights under the Treaty of Tientsin are not infringed, there is no reason why we should not hail Germany's action with every sign of approval, which will tend to bring another slice of Chinese territory under decent government, and will assuredly mean an increase of trade—the object Great Britain has in view. The more of China that is brought under better administration, and the more communications are developed, the more will the China trade grow." That has been the view held by a strong minority of the foreign residents in China since the recent crisis set in; the majority, having partially recovered from its severe attack of Russophobia, is now coming round to the same way of thinking.

REGISTRATION OF SERVANTS.

(Daily Press, 12th May.)

Many fellow sufferers from the derelictions of native servants will sympathise with Mr. WILCOX in his suggestion that a compulsory system of registration should be introduced. Similar proposals have been frequently advanced before, but with the details of the proposed system less clearly worked out, and when details have been asked for they have usually not been forthcoming, or when forthcoming have been found impracticable. The loss and annoyance occasioned by the employment of native servants are only too notorious, and if the Government could undertake to supply us with efficient and honest servants the community would be unfeignedly thankful. But is the Government capable of achieving such a task? We doubt it. If we were all compelled to get our servants through the Government it might possibly be found that the new system was attended with even greater disadvantages than the present system of free contract. Servants would be less readily obtainable, wages would increase, and men who were waiting an opportunity to commit a theft on a large scale and bolt to Canton would not be deterred by the fact that their names had been inscribed in a book. As Mr. WILCOX says in his letter, "where there is only a slender basis of moral responsibility opportunity only too readily makes the thief," and that axiom will remain true, registration or no registration. Experience of the registration system in Hongkong and elsewhere is not calculated to gain much confidence

for it. Mr. WILCOX is mistaken in saying that the system formerly in force in Hongkong was not compulsory; the Ordinance made it a misdemeanour to engage and employ any servant not provided with a certificate of registration, such misdemeanour being punishable by a fine of not more than \$30 or less than \$5, or, in default of payment of such fine, imprisonment with or without hard labour for a period not exceeding one month nor less than seven days. Yet the system broke down completely and the only effect of the Ordinance was to make the whole community technically misdemeanants. At Ceylon there is a similar Ordinance nominally in force at the present time, but from a Police Court case reported in the Colombo papers some time ago it would appear to be practically inoperative. In Tonkin, where a very strict system of registration is enforced, the reports of robberies by domestic servants appearing in the local papers are very numerous. It must be admitted, therefore, that registration is *prima facie* a remedy of doubtful efficacy. With reference to No. 5 of Mr. WILCOX's recommendations, the Attorney-General might possibly give it as his opinion that the suggested entries would be libellous, as the late Sir JOHN SMALE suggested in a wages case that came before him on one occasion while the Registration Act was in force. The employer, who had lost property, which he suspected had been stolen, endorsed the servant's registration ticket. On the ticket being produced in Court the Judge threw out a suggestion that employers making such endorsements might render themselves liable to damages. But whatever the law of libel might have to say to such a case, it would certainly be contrary to natural justice that servants should have robberies recorded against them when they could not be proved to have had any connection with such robberies. If the boy, for instance, committed a theft and escaped detection it would be rather hard on the house coolie, possibly a perfectly honest man, that he should have his ticket endorsed with a record of the crime. The strongest point in Mr. WILCOX's scheme seems to be the compulsory photographing of every servant, which would diminish to some extent the fraudulent use of certificates of character given to persons other than those presenting them; but even that would not afford a panacea, for of the robberies committed by domestic servants a large proportion we should say are committed by men who have been in the same service for some time. If a workable system of registration could be devised, however, and one that promised to afford any real safeguard, employers would naturally welcome it with delight. We believe we are correct in saying that the Captain Superintendent of Police had the question under consideration some time ago, and we would ask, might not a trial be made by conducting a voluntary registration office in connection with the Police, where servants desiring employment might have their names entered and where employers could apply when they wanted servants? Such an office might be found to serve a useful purpose, and if so its scope could be extended. It would soon be seen whether the community really desired registration or not; if such a desire did not become evident we think it would be a mistake to enforce the system, for laws unsupported by public opinion can seldom be worked satisfactorily.

SUPREME COURT.

5th May.

IN ADMIRALTY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HON. W. M. GOODMAN (ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE), WITH COMMANDER W. C. H. HASTINGS, R.N. (RETIRED) AS ASSESSOR.

CLAIM AGAINST A BRITISH WAR-SHIP.

Wong Tat Choy, owner of a Kwong Loong Tai junk, brought an action against Captain G. A. Callaghan, R.N., H.M.S. *Hermione*, to recover \$8,000 for damages sustained by collision.

Mr. Slade (instructed by Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master, appeared for plaintiff and Mr. Robinson (instructed by Mr. Dennys) for defendant.

Mr. Slade said that about five o'clock on the afternoon of the sixth of March plaintiff's junk left Chi Loong Point in company with another junk of the name of *Yet Tai*, owned and commanded by plaintiff's father. There was a large fleet of junks in their immediate neighbourhood. They had been to sell their fish the previous morning and were sailing to their fishing grounds. The course steered by them was approximately south, by Chinese compass (which might vary a considerable number of degrees). The wind was somewhat to the South-east, about E.S.E., of very light strength. At about half-past one there were on deck four men—the helmsman (who has been drowned), the master of the junk, a man keeping a look-out forward, and the man whose duty it was to attend to the sheets of the mainmast. Between one and two o'clock they sighted the white light of a steamer, and about three minutes afterwards a green light and a red light were seen almost simultaneously. First a green light appeared ahead and almost simultaneously a red light. As the lights came nearer the master called the crew on deck, and they shouted when the steamer came in sight. They showed no flare, doing nothing but shout, because on a pole about seven feet high at the stern of the junk a clear light was burning, and they trusted to that light, but unfortunately it was not seen until too late and the *Hermione* crashed into the junk. Continuing, Mr. Slade said he would ask his Lordship to note that the junk people's account of the lights was absolutely accurate when compared with the statement of defendant in his preliminary act of the course the *Hermione* was steering and the position she was in with reference to the junk. As to the legal effect of not having a light, this was not a case of two steamers coming into collision or two European vessels of any kind, but a case of collision with one of Her Majesty's ships, which although not directly governed by the rule of the road at sea on the regulations with regard to collisions at sea, was yet governed by regulations of a precisely similar character in the Queen's Regulations. He thought it was also beyond dispute that the regulations for preventing collision at sea did not apply to Chinese junks, these regulations being only applicable to such nations as had accepted them. He was certain his learned friend could not show that they had ever been extended to Chinese native vessels. They had been extended to Chinese vessels of foreign build but not to Chinese native vessels. Therefore the position of the junk would be governed by the old maritime law of the world prior to any special regulations being imposed upon ships generally as to their conduct on the high seas, when it was perfectly clear and beyond dispute that a sailing ship was under no obligation to carry any light of any kind whatsoever.

His Lordship asked if a sailing ship which came into collision could recover if she did not carry any lights.

Mr. Slade said certainly if there had been anything like reckless seamanship on board the other ship. She was not to be held to blame in consequence of her not having lights. Mr. Slade proceeded to quote cases in support of his contention.

His Lordship—You don't say that at the present time merchant ships do not have to carry a light.

Mr. Slade reiterated that merchant ships not bound by the rules and regulations accepted in modern times came under the old maritime rule. In all civilised nations the rule of carrying lights had become universal; it was obligatory; but with regard to junks he asked His Lordship to lay down that the old maritime law applied to them, and that they were not bound to carry lights. It came to this, that a junk was not necessarily in any way whatsoever to blame if she had no light, though in this case she had a very good light burning at the time.

Plaintiff said his junk was about 75 feet long and 18 feet beam. She was six years old and carried two masts. He described what took place on the sixth of March, when there were 16 persons on board the junk. He said he shouted out to the people on the steamer asking them to change their course, but they did not do so. Suddenly the red light which was being shown by the steamer disappeared and immediately afterwards the steamer struck his junk on the port side amidship just in front of the main mast, and his junk capsized. The bow of the steamer struck his junk. When the junk capsized he was thrown into the water. He swallowed a lot of water and came up from under the junk and was picked up by a boat from the steamer and taken on board. Eleven of those on board his junk were lost. Of the remaining five three were saved by the steamer and two by a fishing junk. He lost everything, including \$820 which was on board.

In answer to Mr. Robinson, plaintiff said he usually carried a light to give notice to steamers and also to give light to those on board the junk.

Chung Yau Tai, a sailor on board plaintiff's boat, corroborated. He said that on the occasion in question he was in the bow of the junk and saw the white light of the steamer on the port side, and he reported the matter to the helmsman. Two or three minutes afterwards he saw a red light and also a green light. He took them to be the lights of a steamer. Three or four minutes afterwards the steamer collided with the junk. The steamer cut into the junk, but not quite through, and then the junk capsized. When he saw the steamer bearing upon them there were two lights burning on the junk—one at the stern and one at the hatchway. Both lights were burning brightly at the time of the collision. When the vessels collided he was thrown into the water and his head hurt. He was picked up by the *Hermione's* boat and well treated.

6th May.

Lieutenant Davidson, officer of the watch on the *Hermione*, said the evening of the sixth of March was fine but dark, there being no moon or stars. The sea was smooth. He first knew of the proximity of the junk when he saw a small light 30 or 40 feet on the starboard bow—about a point, or less than a point. He gave the order to port and immediately afterwards gave the order hard-a-starboard. Between the orders there was not sufficient interval to allow of the first order being carried out. He gave the second order so that they would not run bows on. When he first saw the light there was no possibility by any manœuvring to avoid touching the junk. Following the order he called out "Stop, full speed astern both engines," and this order was executed, but it practically had no effect on the *Hermione* prior to the collision. The direction of the junk's course at the time was south easterly. The effect of the impact on the junk was that the latter turned over and then she passed to the starboard of the *Hermione*. The flash light was turned on and every effort made to save the lives of those on the junk. The *Hermione* stood by for about half-an-hour and then went on to Hongkong. Not more than ten seconds elapsed between his sighting the junk and the impact. Prior to that ten seconds the junk had not shown any light at all. During the interval of ten seconds the junk showed a very small light—a kind of head light, placed on the deck. He had heard it stated by witnesses on the other side that the junk carried a stern light seven feet above deck, and over 20 feet above the water, but this

was not true. The distance from the fore bridge of the *Hermione* to the stem was about 60 feet, and the point of impact was about ten feet from the stem. He could say positively that the *Hermione* did not strike the junk stem on. He told Mr. Little to tell the Captain, and witness himself rang the electric bell which communicated with the captain's sleeping cabin. About half a mile off he saw the lights of two junks. During the previous half-hour the *Hermione* passed other junks, some showing lights and others only showing lights as she passed them. Everybody was on the bridge at the time carrying out their duty under his observation.

In answer to Mr. Slade witness said that during his watch he had not had occasion to alter his course, though during the previous half-hour he had passed other junks. He had been pretty close to some of the junks and had had one or two narrow escapes of collision. He thought the signalman picked out the junk first, calling out that there was a light on the starboard bow. Witness was at this time just crossing from the port side to the starboard—that was in consequence of the signalman calling out. He picked up the light of the junk himself at once on getting to starboard. He saw the light moving, and gave the order to port because he judged that the junk was crossing their bow by seeing her light cross. He could not make out the hull of the junk or her sails. He did not take out his glasses because the signalman spoke very sharply. When he first saw the light he realised that it was quite close, but it did not strike him to go full speed astern at once because he thought at first they could avoid the obstruction. The Captain of the *Hermione* held an enquiry. He could not understand why in his report to the Vice-Admiral the Captain used the words, "But the ship struck the junk and passed over her."

C. J. C. Little, midshipman on the *Hermione*, said he heard the signalman call out that there was a junk on the starboard bow. Mr. Davidson called upon him to go for the Captain. He saw the junk about 20 or 30 yards off. There was a dim light on her deck.

A signalman gave evidence

N. J. Bolkin, a bluejacket on the *Hermione*, said he was keeping the starboard watch between one and two o'clock. About half-past one o'clock a small dim light appeared about 20 yards away on the starboard bow. Witness reported the light almost simultaneously with the signalman. He did not see the junk until she came into collision.

In cross-examination, witness said the *Hermione* did not pass over the junk.

A. E. Rainer, bluejacket, who was on the port lookout, said he observed a low light on the starboard. That was the only light he observed on that junk.

In cross-examination witness said when the junk was struck, she swept past the starboard side of the *Hermione*.

M. O'Connor, quartermaster on duty at the time of the collision, said the first time he was aware of the presence of a junk was the order "port," immediately followed by "hard-a-starboard" from Mr. Davidson. In obedience to the first order he turned the wheel three spokes, when he got the second order. Putting the wheel over three spokes did not affect the course of the vessel. Before the collision occurred, she could only have paid off a few degrees. The engines were immediately reversed.

In answer to Mr. Slade witness said the wheel was only half way over to starboard when the collision occurred.

H. J. Chaffo, artificer in charge of the engine room at the time of the collision, spoke to the telegraph from the bridge signalling "stop, full speed astern" and then "stop."

Captain Callaghan spoke to having been awakened about half-past one o'clock on the night of the collision. On coming up the hatchway he looked over the starboard side and saw the wreck of a junk bottom upwards floating past. He hailed the bridge not to start the engines for fear that the screw might be fouled. He gave orders for the rescue of the crew of the capsized junk. He was of opinion the junk must have gone under when struck, and then came up as she passed along.

Judgment was reserved.

8th May

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR W. M. GOODMAN
(ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE) AND A
SPECIAL JURY.

HUGHES V. CHATER AND MODY.

In this case William Kerfoot Hughes was plaintiff and the Hon. C. P. Chater, C.M.G., and (by order of the 15th February, 1899) H. N. Mody defendants. Plaintiff's claim was for:—(1) The sum of \$24,506.22, being the balance due from defendant to plaintiff on the 30th day of June, 1896, upon various accounts which have been recently stated and settled between them; (2) Interest on the said sum of \$24,506.22, from the said 30th day of June, 1896, until payment or judgment at the rate of 7 per centum per annum calculated with half-yearly rests.

The following composed the special jury:—Messrs. C. W. Dickson, Paul Witkowski, S. Hancock, A. J. Gomes, H. A. Ritchie, A. H. Rennie, and E. W. Mitchell.

The Hon. H. E. Pollock (Acting Attorney-General), instructed by Messrs. Johnson, Stokes, and Master, appeared for plaintiff, and Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C., and Mr. Manuk, instructed by Messrs. Deacon and Hastings, for defendants.

Mr. Pollock submitted that the onus of proof was on the other side and that they must begin.

Mr. Francis suggested that his learned friend should follow the regular order laid down in the code—read the pleadings and then his address to his lordship would come in the proper course.

His Lordship—I am afraid you must put the Court into possession of the pleadings first.

Mr. Pollock said he thought he might possibly have saved time if his lordship had read the pleadings.

His Lordship—I have just glanced through them, but the jury want to hear them, and so do I.

Mr. Pollock—I was simply desirous of saving time.

His Lordship—When we have heard the pleadings we shall know on which side the burden of proof lies.

Mr. Pollock said the writ of summons was filed on the 23rd August, 1898, and the petition was filed on the 2nd September, 1898. Paragraph one of plaintiff's petition said plaintiff was a gentleman residing at the Hongkong Hotel, Victoria, in this Colony. Paragraph two said defendant was a bill and bullion broker, and was a member of the Executive and Legislative Councils of Hongkong and carried on business at Victoria Buildings. Paragraph three said plaintiff claimed from defendant the sum of \$24,506.22, being the balance due from defendant to plaintiff on the 30th day of June, 1896, upon various accounts which had been recently stated and settled between them, and of which a summary was given. Paragraph four said defendant had not paid to plaintiff the said sum of \$24,506.22 or any part thereof, and added: The said sum of \$24,506.22 together with interest thereon from the 20th day of June, 1896, at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum, calculated with half-yearly interest, which interest the defendant agreed to pay to the plaintiff, is due and owing from the defendant to the plaintiff. The plaintiff therefore humbly prays (1) That the defendant may be ordered to pay to the plaintiff the said sum of \$24,506.22, together with interest thereon, from the 30th day of June, 1896, at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum, calculated with half-yearly rests, until payment or judgment; (2) that the defendant may be ordered to pay to the plaintiff his costs of suit; (3) that such further or other relief may be given as the nature of the case may require. In answer to this petition there was an answer put in by defendant Chater alone, and his lordship would see that by this answer defendant admitted that the balance alleged in plaintiff's petition was due by defendant to plaintiff. Paragraph one of the answer said—

Mr. Francis—I object to the answer of defendant Chater alone being read.

His Lordship—Is there any object in doing so, Mr. Pollock?

Mr. Francis—It is not part of the pleadings. His Lordship—I understand there in an amended pleadings put in by the two defendants, and though I have run my eyes through the original and the amended pleadings what we are trying to-day is the amended pleadings.

Mr. Pollock said he attached very great importance to the original pleadings put in by defendant Chater, as the amended pleadings differed materially from it.

His Lordship—I think you have the right to read the original answer if you wish.

Mr. Pollock—I shall have to refer to it, and perhaps it would be better to read the whole answer.

Mr. Francis contended that when they got leave to amend their pleadings the joint answer was the only answer in the suit; and the other was not any longer an answer. Probably it might be produced later on as evidence by way of admission.

Mr. Pollock pointed out that the amendment by which Mody was joined as a defendant was made on the application of defendant Chater, who contended that Mody was a party who was likely to be affected by the result of the suit.

After some further discussion it was agreed that the original pleadings should be read.

Mr. Pollock then read defendant Chater's answer. He said his lordship would notice that this answer of defendant Chater's was filed on the 6th day of October, 1898. In paragraph one defendant admitted the statements in the first and second paragraphs of the petition to be true except in so far as it was alleged that he was a bill and bullion broker. In paragraph two defendant admitted that various accounts had recently been stated and settled between plaintiff and defendant, and that the summary of such stated and settled accounts was correctly set forth in the third paragraph of the petition. Paragraph three said defendant admitted that on the settlement of such accounts there appeared to be due from defendant to plaintiff the sum of \$24,506.22. In paragraph four defendant admitted he had not paid the sum of \$24,506.22 or any part thereof to plaintiff, nor any interest thereon, but said that the said sum of \$24,506.22 was bearing interest in defendant's hands at the rate of seven per cent. per annum from the 30th June, 1896, with half-yearly rests as alleged. In paragraph five defendant denied that the said sum of \$24,506.22 or any part thereof or any interest thereon was payable to plaintiff, plaintiff having agreed for valuable consideration to charge the said monies in favour of one Hormusjee Nowrojee Mody, and defendant having agreed with plaintiff and the said Hormusjee Nowrojee Mody to hold any balances in his hands belonging to plaintiff for and on account of the said Hormusjee Mody and to pay over the same to him. In paragraph six defendant said Mody claimed the benefit of the said charge, and that the said sum of \$24,506.22 should be paid with all interest accruing thereon to him in part payment of a larger sum due owing and payable by plaintiff to Mody and in respect of which the said charge was given. Paragraph seven said defendant was unable to call upon Mody and plaintiff to interplead as defendant was himself interested with Mody in the debt due by plaintiff to Mody and in the charge created. Paragraph eight said defendant would some time since have paid the \$24,506.22 and interest to Mody, or have credited him with the said monies in account, but that plaintiff gave notice to defendant that he intended to dispute the claim of Mody in its entirety, and thereupon defendant agreed to hold the said monies for a reasonable time or to deposit them in safe custody to allow plaintiff to contest Mody's claim. The remaining paragraph dealt with the circumstances alluded to in paragraph five. After reading the replication to that answer, which replication was dated Nov. 22nd, 1898, Mr. Pollock, continuing, said the answer of defendants Chater and Mody was not filed until the 5th of April, 1899, or four months after plaintiff's replication. In their answer defendants said:—"In or about the month of June, 1887, the plaintiff, who was then resident in Hongkong and who was speculating very largely in shares in the local market, was in great financial difficulties. He had bought and sold shares largely on time for settlement at

the end of June and September 1887 and the balances on such transactions were in the then state of the market very heavily against him. He was entirely without means to carry out his contracts in respect of such sales and purchases and could obtain no financial assistance from the local banks or financial institutions. The said Hormusjee Nowrojee Mody was then and still is, amongst other things, a large dealer in shares and securities of all descriptions and had large credits at his disposal. The first defendant, the said Catchick Paul Chater then had and still has a half share and interest in this share and security business but took no active part in the general management thereof, doing himself and on his own account a large business inland and house property in Hongkong and Kowloon, and in the promotion of companies in connection therewith. In some of the transactions in land and house property then pending the plaintiff had a share and interest with the first defendant and the then stated and settled accounts between the plaintiff and the first defendant hereinbefore mentioned are in respect of such joint interests. In his said difficulties the plaintiff applied to the said Hormusjee Nowrojee Mody through the first defendant to complete and carry out all his (the plaintiff's) then pending transactions in shares both purchases and sales, and the said Hormusjee Nowrojee Mody (for himself and the first defendant) agreed so to do and the plaintiff in consideration of such agreement charged the whole of his monies and interests in the hands of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, in the hands of David Elias Sassoon, and in the hands of the first defendant (subject to all prior charges) in favour of the said Hormusjee Nowrojee Mody by way of security for all monies lent or advanced or to be lent and advanced by the defendants to the plaintiff or paid on his account in respect of his said share transactions. The plaintiff further agreed for the considerations aforesaid to pay to the defendants interest on the said monies at the rate of 7 per centum per annum and that the defendants should be at liberty to sell or dispose or make use of the shares taken up by them for the plaintiff until redemption and should not be required to hold for or deliver to the plaintiff any specific shares but might deliver to the plaintiff or to his order any shares of the same nature and kind accounting for any dividends or income accrued upon such shares in the meantime and taking credit for any calls made thereon or other charges of any description. The remainder of the answer gives particulars of the transactions alleged to have been carried out. In the replication filed in reply to the joint answer, plaintiff denied that either the said sum of \$24,506 22, or any portion thereof or any interest thereon, was payable to defendant Mody either for account of himself and of first defendant or otherwise or at all. He also denied that any sum of money whatever was now due owing or payable by him to defendants on any accounts whatsoever. Plaintiff repeated his statement regarding the verbal agreement. He admitted that previous to such agreement being come to he had bought and sold shares largely on time for settlement at the end of June and September, 1887, and that owing to the state of the share market he became, unless helped financially, unable to carry out his contracts. He denied that he could obtain no financial assistance from the local banks or financial institutions, and he further said he never attempted to obtain such assistance. He denied the allegation that the first defendant took no active part in the general share and security business mentioned in paragraph nine of the defendants' joint answer. The replication continued:—"In reply to paragraph 10 of the Answer the plaintiff says that at the end of April or the beginning of May 1887 he, in consequence of the then weak state of the share market, which then gave him no hope of being able to fulfil his share contracts on time which would mature due on the 30th June and the 30th September 1887, in consequence of his having contracted to purchase on time bargains for the said two dates a larger number of shares of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company Limited and of the Punjom and Sunghie Dua Samantan Gold Mining Company Limited than the number of

shares in the said two Companies which he had agreed to sell on time bargains and deliver on the said two dates, applied in the first instance for financial assistance to the second defendant, who referred him to the first defendant, to whom he (the plaintiff) accordingly applied. Subsequently the defendants after going into the matter and after stipulating that the plaintiff should give them (the defendants) as security the whole of his monies, shares, and interests in the hands of The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and in the hands of Mr. David Elias Sassoon (subject to all prior charges thereon), and also make over to them (the defendants) as further security the whole of his (the plaintiff's) interest in section A of Marine Lot No. 49 and Marine Lot No. 110 and other land and houses (subject to the then existing prior charges thereon), and should agree to sell to the defendants for delivery on the 30th June, 1887, at the price of \$150 per share 1,000 to 1,500 (subsequently increased to 2,075) of the shares of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Limited, which he (the plaintiff) had contracted to purchase for delivery as aforesaid on the 30th June 1887 and should also agree to sell to the defendants for delivery as aforesaid at the price of \$9 and \$10 per share 2,000 of the shares of the Punjom and Sunghie Dua Samantan Gold Mining Company, Limited, which he (the plaintiff) had contracted to purchase for delivery as aforesaid on the 30th June 1887, and that the plaintiff should also enter into the agreement with them (the defendants) which is set out in paragraph 1 hereof, agreed that they (the defendants) would assist him (the plaintiff) financially to carry through and complete his (the plaintiff's) share transactions for the said 30th June and 30th September 1887 by taking up and paying for and receiving delivery for and on behalf of the plaintiff of all the shares in the said two companies which the plaintiff had agreed to buy forward for the said two dates respectively, and by their delivering for and on behalf of the plaintiff from out of such shares all the shares which the plaintiff had agreed to sell forward for the said two dates respectively, and by their carrying and holding for and on behalf of the plaintiff the balance of the plaintiff's shares remaining in their hands after carrying out and completing the plaintiff's share transactions for the said two dates, and after the delivery to them (the defendants) of the 2,075 shares of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company Limited and the 2,000 shares of the Punjom and Sunghie Dua Samantan Gold Mining Company Limited which are above mentioned. Save in so far as this paragraph contains admissions and save in so far as the plaintiff admits that provided any monies were found to be due from the plaintiff to the defendants the defendants were entitled to debit the plaintiff with interest upon such monies at the rate of 7 per centum per annum, the plaintiff denies the truth of each and every of the allegations which are contained in paragraph 10 of the Answer. And in particular the plaintiff denies that he ever entered into any agreement with the defendants or with either of them giving them or either of them liberty to either sell or dispose or make use of any shares which should be taken up by them for the plaintiff until redemption or to in any way deal with such shares for their own use and profit. And the plaintiff also denies that he agreed that the defendants or either of them should not be required to hold for or deliver to the plaintiff any specific shares, and the plaintiff further denies that he agreed that the defendants or either of them might deliver to the plaintiff or his order any shares of the same nature and kind accounting merely for any dividends or income accrued upon such shares in the meantime and taking credit for any calls made thereon or other charges of any description. By way of reply to the answer generally, the plaintiff concludes his replication:—"The plaintiff has recently discovered that the defendants in breach of their said agreement with the plaintiff and of their duty to him as confidential agents have not taken up or carried or held for and on behalf of the plaintiff any of the shares which in pursuance of their said Agreement with the plaintiff (which is set out in paragraph 5 hereof) they ought to have taken up

and carried and held for and on his behalf and accordingly the whole of the accounts which the defendants rely upon in their Answer as a defence to this suit are founded upon fraud and deceit and are without foundation and must fall to the ground. The plaintiff, in consequence of the aforesaid discovery made by him, has applied to both the defendants for the numbers (giving particulars of the different scrips) of the shares in the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company and in the Punjom Mining Company which they profess by the Accounts referred to in paragraphs 7 and 9 hereof to have been carrying and holding for and on behalf of the plaintiff, but the defendants have wrongfully and in breach of their duty to the plaintiff as such agents as aforesaid refused to supply the said particulars to the plaintiff because they knew and know full well that they have broken their said Agreement with the plaintiff inasmuch as they have not taken up and carried and held for and on behalf of the plaintiff any of the shares which they agreed to take up and carry and hold for and on behalf of the plaintiff as aforesaid and which by the said accounts they represent that they have taken up and have been and are carrying and holding for and on behalf of the plaintiff as appears on the face of such Accounts."

Counsel then proceeded to argue the point as to which side should open and on which side the onus of proof lay, Mr. Pollock contending that it lay with defendants and Mr. Francois that it lay with plaintiff.

Mr. Pollock said that his contention was that the only point really which had to be decided was, were these accounts stated and settled accounts as alleged by the other side? Of course if they were stated and settled accounts it must follow that there was due to defendants a greater amount than was due to plaintiff, and it would be for defendants to open.

His Lordship—You say they are not stated and settled accounts, because they are fraudulent?

Mr. Pollock said quite so. They said they were not stated accounts because they never acquiesced in them.

Mr. Francois said their defence was an admission practically that they owed this \$24,506. They would be perfectly willing, when they had authority from Mr. Hughes, to pay the money over to themselves in settlement of any claims which might arise, and they put forward as their evidence in support of the existence of this transaction, and of its having been carried through, and of the amount due, a statement that there were stated and settled accounts between the parties. They alleged in their pleadings that on the 31st April, 1887, they rendered fully detailed accounts of all their transactions with Mr. Hughes, and that Mr. Hughes accepted those accounts as being true and signed them as correct. These accounts were made out in 1887, and they said that until recently they had never been questioned.

On the Court resuming after tiffin.

His Lordship decided that it was for Mr. Francois to open.

Mr. Francois, having called attention to a certain point in the pleadings, proceeded to deal with plaintiff's antecedents. He said that in 1881 plaintiff was taken up by Mr. Chater and given certain shares and enterprises in which Mr. Chater was interested. He had not the least doubt that Mr. Chater got value, in the shape of services rendered, in return. The result of these speculations was that Mr. Hughes made some \$30,000 or \$40,000. In 1883 Mr. Hughes went away to Australia, and in the meantime Mr. Chater went in for what had proved a most successful speculation. He purchased land and a syndicate was formed to work the Kowloon Wharf and Godowns Company, and Mr. Chater gave Mr. Hughes a fifth share in that syndicate. Mr. Hughes did not contribute a cent towards it. An expenditure of \$600,000 was incurred in building these wharves and godowns. Mr. Chater supplied the whole of the money out of his own pocket for Mr. Hughes and for himself in respect of their one-fifth share, and when ultimately the concern was transferred to a company and handsome profits were realised, there was a profit of something like \$40,000 for Mr. Hughes alone. But by that time Mr. Hughes had involved himself very

considerably in all sorts of speculations—in investments in land and trafficking in shares—and in 1887 he had got into such a state that he could not have commanded \$50. Under these circumstances he applied to Mr. Chater for assistance. At that time Messrs. Chater and Mody were in a position of what they might almost call unlimited resources. They were both big speculators. Mr. Mody carried on a big business as a jobber in shares. Mr. Chater was largely interested in companies and land business, which he managed himself. Mr. Hughes went first to Mr. Mody, who referred him to Mr. Chater. There was one thing which he might mention here and which he asked the jury to bear in mind. Mr. Mody had a thorough distrust of Mr. Hughes. He considered him a dangerous man to mix up with in speculations—as rash and obstinate. If Mr. Mody had been left to himself Mr. Hughes would not have received the least assistance. It was only with the greatest difficulty that Mr. Chater succeeded in inducing Mr. Mody to agree to what was subsequently done. Mr. Hughes went to Mr. Chater early in June. Mr. Chater asked him to produce a memorandum to show his exact position. This he did, subsequently producing another one as this was not satisfactory. The first memorandum was not dated, but the second was dated June 11th; and he would call the attention of the jury to the latter date because it was clear no agreement could have been made with Chater and Mody to pay off Mr. Hughes' June and September liabilities while they were still asking him what his position was and what security he could offer. After that statement had been handed in Messrs. Chater and Mody agreed to advance him money to meet his liabilities. Mr. Hughes had a very large quantity of shares involving the expenditure and payment of an enormous amount of money for the end of September, and he was not in a position to meet those liabilities or to take up the shares he was liable to take up. He could not get any advance or any assistance from the banks. Therefore Messrs. Chater and Mody were undertaking to find money for him to take up liabilities in respect of these Punjom and Kowloon shares at very high prices. Mr. Francis proceeded to describe the way in which Messrs. Chater and Mody carried out the agreement. Certain shares were handed over to Messrs. Chater and Mody by Mr. Hughes, but a balance of \$30,000 was still due, and for this sum Mr. Hughes gave a promissory note. They had heard—for unfortunately Mr. Hughes had not been able to keep his tongue quiet, and had been talking about his state of affairs all over the colony—that he intended to dispute this transaction. If so they would be able to satisfy the jury that it was carried out and that it was a genuine operation. They contended that the account of the 30th June was not only a stated account but a settled account. Mr. Hughes denied, they understood, that he had ever received such account, and he had had notice to produce it. The only copy of that account which apparently could be produced was the press copy. Mr. Francis proceeded to deal with the subsequent transactions which Messrs. Chater and Mody had with Mr. Hughes in respect of the liabilities. He was called upon to meet in September of 1887. Towards the end of the year he was ordered home, being in a bad state of health—it was not necessary to enquire why, as it was well known in the colony why—and he got away in April. Before leaving, however, he sent in for his account. That account was sent to him, and returned to have certain items added. The account was made out again to March 31st. It showed a balance of \$419,923.93 against Hughes in respect of other transactions taking place between them; another account was rendered showing a balance against Mr. Hughes of \$318,000 odd; that account Mr. Hughes supplied signed, on each sheet, at Mr. Mody's special request. He asked them to consider how was it possible any man could come forward and say he did not know what he was doing and was entitled to come forward and repudiate it without some strong case indeed. Messrs. Mody and Chater provided him with money to leave the colony, getting a letter of credit for £1,000 for him. On leaving the colony he left his brother Jones Hughes with complete power of attorney. During his absence

the Kowloon shares went up, and Mr. Chater recommended Mr. Jones Hughes to wire his brother recommending him to sell at least half of his holding. Mr. Jones Hughes did so, and received a wire back instructing him to sell 500, which was done. The account was continued down to February, 1890, when it showed a balance against Mr. Hughes of \$100,791.55. They were not quite clear in their minds on the subject, but it was believed that Mr. Hughes was back in the colony at the time this account was made out, but that he went away again. The next account rendered to plaintiff was when he came back in 1896, when through the enormous rise in the value of shares the balance on account of shares against him had been reduced to \$94,361.

9th May.

Mr. Francis, continuing his opening, said that in the course of the afternoon the previous day he endeavoured to give the jury as clear a statement as possible of what he might call the broad features of the case, the nature of the transactions between Hughes and Chater and Mody in respect to which that suit had arisen, and he pointed out that Mr. Hughes had shares to take up in June and September—in June to the value of \$450,000 and in September to a similar amount. Against those he had a very small amount of shares to deliver and receive payment for and he was in such a position that he could not by any possibility have arranged with the banks for the necessary means to carry out these contracts. He had bought these shares at such a price, and the market had so fallen for both those descriptions of shares, in which he had been principally dealing—Kowloons and Punjoms—that to attempt to sell out would have left him with a very heavy liability. His only chance, to enable him to something like equalise his holdings, was to get some body to finance him for June and September. Accordingly he applied to Mr. Chater, who induced his partner Mr. Mody to find the necessary money. The result was that Messrs. Chater and Mody disbursed very large amounts of money in respect of shares which they took up and for which they paid very high prices. These shares at the then depreciated value represented on the 30th September, 1887, a margin—only a nominal margin—of some \$76,000 against Mr. Hughes. Defendants had to disburse large sums of money, and they only had in their hands these shares, which might or might not represent the values at which they were entered in the book. They were not in the position to get securities to the extent of \$100,000 for an advance of \$40,000 or \$50,000, or \$60,000. They had no security showing a large margin. They got some additional securities a little later on; but even then there was a very heavy balance against Hughes. He also pointed out the previous day that accounts were made up at different times. He then glanced over the items of the accounts from the 30th of September onward, showing that there were comparatively few share transactions after that date and that on the whole the balance against Mr. Hughes had steadily diminished until 1896. He had now to go through with the jury the correspondence which took place between Mr. Hughes on the one hand and Mr. Mody on the other with reference to these accounts. Mr. Francis proceeded to deal with the correspondence, which was of a most voluminous nature, and then went on to point out to the jury the facts upon which it would be for them to come to a decision.

Mr. Francis had not concluded his speech when the court adjourned for tiffin. On resuming, Mr. Francis continued his criticism of plaintiff's replication, and in conclusion said they believed that if plaintiff had had to open the case there would have been absolutely no evidence. The case would have been brought to an end very speedily indeed. Having been required, and he believed correctly required so far as the pleadings were concerned, to open the case, he had opened the case completely. He had gone into the whole matter, though perhaps strictly speaking he might have confined himself to the stated and settled accounts. But as the matter had been forced into court Mr. Chater and Mr. Mody wanted the fullest and most complete investigation. They

wanted from the hands of the jury a full and careful examination of the facts of the case and their decision on questions of fact between themselves and Mr. Hughes. They relied confidently upon this—that the whole of their transactions would be found from beginning to end to have been not merely thoroughly honest, straightforward, and bona fide, but that their books and accounts and everything else had been kept in a thoroughly simple and straightforward manner, that there was nothing whatever—good, bad, or indifferent—which they wished to hide.

Evidence was then called.

The Hon. C. P. Chater said—I am one of the defendants in this case and am in partnership with Mr. Mody as a dealer in shares. We have been connected since 1880 or 1881. Up to 1889 I was a bill and bullion broker, but I have ceased to carry on that business now. I am very largely interested in land in Hongkong. Mr. Mody is a bill and bullion broker, but so far as shares are concerned he is not a broker but a jobber. I take no part in the business so far as the buying and selling is concerned. In 1887 and the early part of 1888 I helped the clerk in supervising the monthly settlements. In 1888 I left for home and my nephew Mr. Manuk arrived and took over the work. I have known Mr. Hughes a number of years—I think since some time in the 70's. He was in the share broking business, being in partnership with Mr. Bottomley first. After this he was in partnership with Mr. Legge. I first became connected with him in 1881. I was buying properties—mostly godown properties in Wanchai—and I gave him an interest in them. I made him a sort of manager on commission to work the godowns. After I started the Wanchai godowns I started something similar between 1882 and 1883 at Kowloon, buying land and erecting buildings, in conjunction with a syndicate. The total expenditure was about \$600,000. Mr. Hughes had a fifth share, but he did not find a cent of the money. I had money of Mr. Hughes's in hand to the extent of \$32,000, but I advanced the whole of the money due from him and me. Mr. Hughes was appointed manager of the Kowloon godowns, and continued such until the formation of the company in 1887, when his brother was appointed manager. He was manager of the Wanchai godowns from the commencement. He only settled up the Wanchai godown accounts the other day. I got Mr. Paul Jordan to go and examine his books and I accepted his decision. This \$24,506 claimed by Mr. Hughes was the debit balance. In June, 1887, Mr. Hughes made application to me and Mr. Mody for financial assistance. He came to me direct, and was not sent to me by Mr. Mody. At that time we were good friends and co-operating together in many things. When he applied to me in June, 1887, he said he was in difficulties and that he wanted me to help him. I asked him what was the matter and what help did he want. He told me he had been buying largely both Punjoms and Wharves for June and September and that he could not get assistance from the Banks. I asked him how was that, as I had given him a thousand clean Kowloon shares a few months before. He said he had the shares in the Bank as margins and that he was all right. He added that he had margins all over the place and that he would keep us very safe if we helped him. I asked him what he wanted us to do and that we should want to know his exact position. I told him that I could not do anything without asking Mr. Mody, and that the best thing he could do was to bring me a statement of his affairs to place before Mr. Mody. The memorandum produced was the one which Mr. Hughes brought to me a few days afterwards. When I got this statement I looked it over, and I wanted a more detailed statement; I wanted to know what margin he had in the Bank to meet these liabilities. I showed this document to Mr. Mody. There is no date to it. A few days afterwards I received a further statement from him. The statement produced is the same. It was dated 11th June, 1887. I must have got the statement on that date or a day later. On receipt of that paper I looked it over and I saw that if the statement was correct he would have a good margin. I asked him what he wanted us to do, and he said he wanted us to clear from him

about 200 whaves and 4,000 Punjoms. He said the latter would probably before the 30th of June be reduced to 3000, as he had sold a thousand and they would probably be taken up before the 30th June. I asked him how he was going to secure us if we did so, and he said he would give us a letter on the Bank for any margin on his account the Bank might have and would also give us as security some sugar shares then held by Mr. D. E. Sassoon and also second mortgages on certain property. He added that any balance that I might have in account with him could be paid over to us. After that I was discussing the question with him, and I must say I was inclined to help him. Just then Mr. Mody came in and went to his desk. I showed the memo. to Mr. Mody and said I had looked it over and was inclined to assist Mr. Hughes. I told him also the conversation I had had with Mr. Hughes—that he was prepared to give us orders on the Bank and to pay any balances they might have over to us, and also that any balances due to Mr. Hughes from us could be paid over to our account and that if we required it we could have second mortgages on certain properties. Mr. Mody asked me if I was satisfied, and I said I thought we might help him, and he replied, "Very well, you understand we are not bound to hold the shares." I told Mr. Mody that that was understood, but that he had better tell Hughes this himself. Mr. Mody then came along with me to my desk and spoke to Mr. Hughes. He told him we were going to help him and added "But you understand perfectly that we are not bound to hold the shares. You can have the shares whenever you want them and the sooner you take them the better as we are not bankers. We can do as we like with the shares." Mr. Hughes replied "Certainly: all I care for is a rise in the market." I then told Mr. Hughes that he had better get all the brokers' accounts made up as soon as possible and to send them in to us with a statement so that we might see how things were to be carried out. He thanked me very much and left me with tears in his eyes. Before this I had had a previous conversation with Mr. Mody about this matter. Mr. Mody was against agreeing to Mr. Hughes's proposal. It was entirely my work. Mr. Mody did not care for Mr. Hughes at all. A day or two before the end of the month a statement was sent in to me by Mr. Hughes of the accounts of the brokers: I have not got that statement, but we have a copy in the handwriting of our clerk, Mr. Silva, who has not been in our employ for 11 years. The copy produced is the same. I have sought for the original but have not been able to find it. I must have sent it back to Mr. Hughes with the brokers' accounts. I can testify to the copy being a correct one. I have found two of the brokers' accounts for June, 1887. Those produced are the same. I have made a very careful search, but those are the only brokers' accounts for that June settlement that I have been able to find. Mr. Hughes's actual contracts were about what he had represented them to be. We, however, took up 4,350 Punjoms instead of 3,000. We cleared all his June transactions, paying out a very large sum of money—\$450,387. With a view to reducing that amount Mr. Hughes sold the 4750 Punjoms to Mr. Mody. I was not present when the transaction took place, but I was told about it by Mr. Mody. We had to take up 215 Kowloons for Mr. Hughes, but on the 30th June we got possession of 520 more Kowloons. Mr. Hughes gave us an order on the Bank for 520 Kowloons, as I had asked him for additional margins, for security to cover the 30th June. This was after we had got the accounts and knew what was exactly to be done. I got these 520 Kowloons from the Bank. I had to pay the Bank \$21,444 for them. These made 735 Kowloons. I got the letter produced, dated 30th June, from Mr. Hughes, having reference to the securities given by him: On the 30th June I got the promissory note produced from Mr. Hughes. The body of the note is in the handwriting of my clerk Mr. Silva. I have never received from the Hongkong Bank any payment of margins under the authority of the letter sent for them by Hughes. I received some monies from D. E. Sassoon under the authority of the letter sent by Hughes for them and this was credited to Hughes's account.

10th May.

The Hon. C. P. Chater, continuing his evidence, said—I know that an account of the 30th June was made up and sent to Mr. Hughes. There is a press copy of the account in our letter book, which I produce. Both Mr. Hughes and his solicitor have seen this press copy book, and I believe they have got a copy of the account.

At this point there was a little breeze between counsel.

Mr. Pollock said he could not tell whether they had a copy or not.

Mr. Francis (hotly)—It is lying before them. Mr. Master has it.

Mr. Pollock—If my very eloquent and fiery friend will only learn to conduct himself properly we shall get on very well. We have not had an opportunity yet of seeing whether we have a copy or not.

Mr. Francis—It is there in Mr. Master's hands.

Mr. Pollock subsequently remarked that he found they had a copy.

Witness, continuing, said—The account appears on pages 190 and 191. On the 30th June the words "sold" were written against the Punjom and Kowloon shares handed to us by Hughes as security. It was written by our late clerk Silva. I have no recollection of having gone over the account with Mr. Hughes, but Mr. Hughes must have gone over it or else he would not have given us the promissory note. In May and June I was in almost daily communication with Mr. Hughes. Mr. Hughes was not so ill then as to prevent him from attending to his business. Since Mr. Hughes returned to the colony he has been making enquiries as to these accounts, and all the accounts, books, etc., have been freely shown to him. During these investigations no objection was taken to the entry showing the sale of 4,350 Punjoms and the 730 Kowloons to Mr. Mody. On the contrary Mr. Master told me he was thoroughly satisfied. Mr. Hughes never denied the sale of the shares during the investigation. The result of the settlement appearing on that account was that we held no shares belonging to Hughes on the 30th June and that he owed me \$30,000 on his promissory note. The notes produced are the contract notes confirming the sale of the shares. They were signed by W. Kerfoot Hughes. I and Mody carried through for Hughes his September settlements. We had previously got a statement as to the particulars of that settlement. The statement produced is a copy in the handwriting of Kerfoot Hughes himself. When the 30th September came we received, as we had done in June, the brokers' accounts.

His Lordship suggested that counsel should see which items in the accounts were admitted, and thus save time.

After some consideration,

Mr. Francis said the other side admitted all the items in the June account except the sale of the 4,350 Punjoms and 735 Kowloons by Mr. Hughes to Mr. Mody.

Mr. Francis subsequently observed that the whole of the September account was admitted so far as figures were concerned, the only dispute being as to how defendants dealt with the shares.

The examination-in-chief of Mr. Chater was continued, and was not concluded when the Court adjourned for tiffin.

After tiffin Mr. Chater continued his evidence. He said—The contract note produced is for 2,075 Punjoms, but we were only called to take up 1,075, which came to Mr. Mody on his own account. I expect Mr. Sassoon had the rest. This had nothing to do with the June settlement. It was an ordinary share transaction which took place the month before—in May. With reference to the 950 Punjoms which we had to take up by the end of September, of these we ourselves were the sellers of 600, so that we had 350 to take up and pay for from outside parties. At that time we had on hand 450 more Punjom shares than we owed Mr. Hughes. We owe Mr. Hughes 950. The matter as to arranging to let Mr. Hughes have £1,000 on his going home in 1888 was arranged with him by myself and Mr. Mody on his leaving the colony. I never acted for Mr. Hughes in any way. He left his brother here. Mr. Hughes went away on the

4th April, 1888. Soon after he went away there was a rise in some of the shares—Kowloons, which went up to 150 or 160—and on our advice Mr. Hughes after some delay authorised the sale of 500. They were sold by Mr. Jones Hughes, who gave delivery orders on us, which orders we obeyed. I have gone through the account produced and it is correct. It shows that a balance of \$45,231 67 was due from Mr. Hughes since he returned to the colony, and I have been present when he and Mr. Master have examined the books and accounts. Mr. Master expressed his satisfaction with the accounts as rendered up to June, 1896, and said that if Mr. Hughes insisted on fighting he would throw the case up. At least six months elapsed after this before I heard that the matter was to be contested.

Mr. Chater was closely questioned as to different items in the accounts, and his examination was only concluded at half-past four, when the court adjourned.

11th May.

The Hon. C. P. Chater again entered the witness box, and answered a few further questions put to him by Mr. Francis. He pointed out the entries in the journal and ledger relating to the purchase from Kerfoot Hughes of the 4,350 Punjoms and the 752 Kowloons, the price given for the former appearing as \$52,200 and for the latter as \$95,950.

On being cross-examined by Mr. Pollock witness said he gave Mr. Hughes an interest in the properties he purchased at Wanchai, receiving no money whatever from Mr. Hughes. The Wanchai Godowns were re-sold at a profit. At first they were all paid for by him. When they were sold the account was made up, and whatever the profit was he credited Mr. Hughes with one-third or one-fourth, or whatever it was.

Mr. Pollock—Surely you don't mean to say you made Mr. Hughes a present of so much money?

Witness said virtually he did, and added that if there had been a loss Mr. Hughes would have been responsible for his share. Before becoming manager of the Wanchai godowns Mr. Hughes had had experience of the business. He did not remember that in 1881 Mr. Hughes made him payments in the shape of purchase money in respect of Kowloon property. Mr. Hughes gave in a cheque for \$20,000 in 1882 to the credit of his account.

A letter dated April 27th, 1887, from Mr. Walter, then manager of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, to Mr. Hughes, was read. It said a cheque of his for \$70,000 had been presented, but as his overdraft was \$339,000 he asked him not to increase it further, adding "There is of course plenty of margin, but the directors are averse to making enormous advances."

The cross-examination of witness was continued and had not finished when the court adjourned for tiffin.

After tiffin the cross-examination of Mr. Chater was continued.

Mr. Chater was closely questioned by Mr. Pollock as to the accounts.

Mr. Hormusjee Norowjee Mody said—I am a bill and bullion broker. I have dealt in shares for 31 years. In 1887 I carried on that business. Mr. Chater was my partner. I remember an arrangement for financing plaintiff in that year; it was first mentioned to me in June. I saw the paper produced. The arrangement made for financing plaintiff was before the date of this document (11th June). I don't know how long before. Mr. Chater first mentioned the matter to me. Plaintiff had not approached me. The arrangement was finally made in our office; it was a verbal one. Mr. Chater, myself, and plaintiff were present at the time. Mr. Chater told me that plaintiff was in difficulty and wanted help. I told Mr. Chater I did not like to help that gentleman. Mr. Chater said "I will ask about his position; let us see." Two or three days after Mr. Chater showed me some papers. There were two, which are those produced. Mr. Chater told me he was satisfied and would like to help. I told him I should not like to as he (plaintiff) would never sell his shares. Chater insisted, and I reluctantly assented. Plaintiff was in

the room but at some distance. I said to Chater, "On one condition, we will not hold the shares," and he told me that was understood. He said I had better see plaintiff. I went with Mr. Chater to him and told him on one condition we were going to finance him, that we would not hold the shares but use them when we liked. He said "That's all right. I only want to keep my interest. I only want the rise in price." On 30th June I arranged with plaintiff about some Kowloon and Punjom shares which he sold to me, I think 4,350 Punjoms and 735 Kowloons. He proposed that I should buy them. I did not force him. The prices were, I think, the proper market ones. I ask my clerk to note all sales. I did not keep the books; Mr. Chater and a clerk did. It was part of the agreement made with plaintiff that I should sell him 2,000 Punjoms on time. He bought 1,425 Punjoms through Chater and Vernon and some Kowloons for delivery at the end of February. The agreement to finance plaintiff was made in June. There was no agreement for him to deliver Kowloon and Punjom shares to me. He proposed to buy forward on 30th June. The 2,075 Kowloons mentioned in the document produced are no part of the agreement, nor are the 2,000 Punjoms mentioned in the other. Plaintiff left the colony about the 3rd or 4th April, 1888. There were purchases and sales between us about that time. (Referring to account) I bought 475 Punjoms at \$12 on 3rd April, at plaintiff's suggestion, because I wanted his debt to me reduced. I also bought 540 Kowloons on same date for the same reason. These sales were on the same day. I had known plaintiff for some years before 1887 and had met him nearly every day. He was a sharebroker and before that a produce broker. On 3rd April, 1888, he was in his usual state of health, as healthy as anyone else and capable of looking after his affairs. The signature and initials on the document produced are plaintiff's. I saw him sign it and he was capable of understanding what he was doing. I asked him if he had examined the account and got him to initial it. When he was signing this we did no other business. Mr. Chater arranged about the £1,000, and I saw him (plaintiff) sign the memorandum.

By Mr. Pollock—I received a letter addressed to myself and Mr. Chater asking the numbers of shares held for plaintiff and refused to give any information. When he wanted the shares he could have had the numbers.

The case was adjourned till Monday at 10.30 a.m.

AFFAIRS IN THE PHILIPPINES.

THE AMERICANS MEET THE MAIN FORCE OF THE INSURGENT ARMY.

THE FORCING OF THE IMPASSABLE RIO GRANDE AND ITS CONSEQUENCES.

HEROIC DEEDS OF THE KANSAS REGIMENT.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Calumpit, 29th April.

The last few days have been characterized by the most vigorous and effective fighting of the campaign. The famous Rio Grande has been crossed in the face of all opposition and the backbone of the insurgent army is apparently broken. It was at this same river that the Spaniards fought so hard and lost so many men in obtaining control over the Filipinos in the last insurrection.

On Tuesday night General McArthur's troops reached the outskirts of the town of Calumpit, about thirty miles north of Manila. The railroad bridge was destroyed by the retreating natives, who dropped a 50 foot steel span into the river, but the army's progress was only temporarily checked, as the artillery, baggage train, and ambulances were dragged through the river Bagbag and landed with small loss on the opposite side, about a mile from the centre of Calumpit. For a day and a half the two armies hammered away at each other until finally the insurgents escaped across the Rio Grande and made a stand in their trenches on the north

bank. The river is one of the largest in Luzon, far too deep and broad for a large force to cross without boats. The bridge was not seriously damaged, although the flooring, rails, and many of the steel girders were removed, making it impossible to pass except one by one holding on to the side guards. The trenches were the strongest and most skilfully constructed of all that have been encountered. For three miles the north bank was protected with earthworks 15 feet thick at the base ranging to six and eight feet at the crest. It was evident that the enemy intended to make a stand such as never had been attempted before. They were using a small brass muzzle loading cannon that was fired with great regularity but little effect, in addition to their infantry, which was protected from the American shrapnel by a long line of bombproof loopholed trenches. For sixteen hours the insurgents stuck to these trenches and fought like demons, while the Americans lay in the brush and long grass on the edge of the opposite bank scarcely 250 yards distant. It is little short of miraculous that the mortality lists of both sides was not very great.

COLONEL FUNSTON'S AND KANSAS TROOPS' HEROIC WORK.

Finally, about ten o'clock on Thursday morning, two privates of the Kansas Regiment stripped off their clothes and swam toward the insurgent bank, carrying a rope as they went. Both dived low and remained under water for some moments, coming up to breathe about fifty feet from the American side. They were under the direct fire of the enemy and bullets rained on all sides of them until they had more than passed the centre of the river, where the height of the enemy's works prevented them from firing directly down. As the men reached the bank a great cheer went up, and quickly making the rope fast they lay down flat at the water's edge shielded from the flying bullets. A raft was hastily constructed and Colonel Funston with eight men boarded it and began to guide themselves across by the rope. From every available point the enemy poured in a galling fire, rapidly decreasing, however, under the shelling of the American artillery, which fire was concentrated just a little above the intended landing point. Two companies were ferried across on the raft and then the gallant Colonel charged up the bank and over the trenches, quickly routing the enemy and obtaining a flank fire. In a few moments they were on the retreat and General Wheaton ordered the Montana Regiment to cautiously cross the damaged bridge and reform on the railroad track. The bullets of the retreating enemy struck the bridge in a hundred places, but fortunately only two men were wounded in crossing. As soon as the men were safely over the battle was renewed, the insurgents having made a stand from reserve trenches about 1,000 yards beyond the bridge. In half-an-hour they were driven out of these and the position was practically won, with a brass cannon and several rifles to boot. As the fight had been going on for several hours, the order was given to cease firing, and the men lunched on what scanty rations they carried in their haversacks.

After waiting about half-an-hour, a long line of men were observed coming from the direction of Macabebe and as they drew nearer two regular skirmish lines could be distinguished, firing line and reserves. The approach was so orderly that for twenty minutes the troops held fire, not knowing whether by some change a regiment had been sent around to carry out a flank movement. When the newcomers were within 2,000 yards their white straw hats were seen and then it was known that the main insurgent army was on the plain ready to give battle. A heavy fire was immediately opened, though the artillery was still on the other side of the river, having been unable to cross. At the first volley the enemy dropped like a single man and began a return fire which lasted for some thirty minutes; then the long line commenced a slow retreat. A single officer, General Luna, mounted on a black charger, dashed up and down the lines, apparently exhorting his men to return to the fray, and finally they did turn and came back on the run fully 2,000 of them. This time they came on the double time to within 1,800 yards and then they dropped again and opened fire, which was vigorously returned by the

waiting Americans. A small party of three companies of the Kansas regiment swung round into the brush and in a few minutes obtained a flank fire that noticeably worried the Filipinos, and again they retreated, still in perfect order, and continued on, over into the brush, about half a mile to the west. A magnificent opportunity was lost for a great battle. The advance guard of General Wheaton's brigade pressed up as far as Apalit, some two miles along the railroad, and succeeded in routing the natives before they had set fire to much of the town. A heavy thunder and rain storm put a stop to the day's operations and the troops went into camp in the open fields.

GENERAL MCARTHUR'S OPINION.

Major General McArthur says that the forcing of the Rio Grande, which is an impassable river defended by a very strong force, heavily entrenched, was a remarkable military event.

The battle of the Rio Grande marks a definite period of the war and it is the consensus of opinion that its result will greatly tend toward the demoralization of the insurgent army.

THE AMERICANS CAPTURE SAN FERNANDEZ.

Hongkong, 6th May.

Yesterday a private wire was received in the city announcing that the Americans had captured San Fernandez and that the Filipinos had been routed.

STUBBORN RESISTANCE BY THE REBELS.

Manila, 4th May.

Major-General McArthur's division took the field again at daylight yesterday and advanced from Apalit to San Fernando despite the protestations of the commissioners who recently came in to confer with General Otis. The rebels stubbornly resisted the attacking forces both at San Tomas and San Fernando. General Hale's brigade, consisting of five 3-2-10 guns and a gattling under Major Young, 6th Artillery, two battalions of the 51st Iowa, the Nebraska and South Dakota volunteer regiments, started at daylight along the main road from Apalit to Fernando, some 24 miles to the right of the railroad. The enemy was first encountered at 6.45 o'clock near San Simon. The Iowas at once opened fire upon the rebels, position, a small unfinished trench on the left of the road, and drove the outpost ahead in fairly good order. The natives after setting fire to the village evacuated it. As the column advanced it became more and more evident that the rebels had entertained no idea that the Americans would split up their forces and use both railroad and highway; hence, beyond a few pitfalls and imperfect trenches, all of their earthworks were so constructed as to command the embankment alone, leaving their occupants unprotected from the road. The result was that as General Hale's brigade advanced the rebels, who were waiting for the Americans to advance along the railroad, were compelled to evacuate their positions and retreat to San Tomas.

At 7.45 o'clock the head of the column reached the banks of the river, on the other side of which the rebels were strongly entrenched for a distance of over a mile on each side of the railroad bridge. Major Young's platoon immediately proceeded to shell the enemy's position, while the Iowa and Nebraska volunteer regiments, which were thrown along the bank, fired volley after volley into the trenches. The rebels, however, offered a most stubborn resistance, and for fifty-five minutes held the Americans in check, despite the very heavy artillery and musketry fire which was maintained across the river.

Ultimately, however, they were flanked by the Nebraskans, and a wild scramble for the railroad, where trains were in waiting, ensued.

During the engagement and advance of yesterday afternoon the following casualties occurred.

KILLED.

James Spoirry, Company G, 1st Nebraska. Two other Nebraska volunteers killed, names unobtainable.

WOUNDED.

B. F. Dunning, Co. E, 1st Nebraska. Willard B. Johnston, Co. K, 1st Nebraska.

Clark Koorill, Co. F, 1st Nebraska.

The gallant Brigadier-General Frederick H. Funston, formerly Colonel of the Kansas regiment, was wounded in the right hand while leading his men towards San Fernando. The wound is a very painful one, and compelled the General to quit the field to come into town for treatment, much against his will.

Captain A. Bright, of Company C, 20th Kansas, was wounded in the left thigh while supporting the battery with companies C and H of his regiment, and the following men under him were wounded:—

T. J. Davidson, Company H, 20th Kansas.

B. H. Oliver, Company H, 20th Kansas.

Fritz Clapp, Company I, 20th Kansas.

Captain Dillon, of Company K, Montana Volunteers, while acting as major in the field, was wounded in the hip, and one of his men, private Fred Smith, of Company C, was wounded in the left ear.

R. J. Van Hook, of Company K, South Dakota Volunteers, was also wounded during the advance.

MANY DISTURBANCES ABOUT THE CITY.

Apparently there was some organized attempt to disturb the peace of Manila last night, for there was frequent firing about the streets in many parts of the town. As many as thirty shots were heard in the Ermita and Malate districts, and the vicinity of Bilibid prison was roused for half an hour while a little shooting match was in progress.

Employees at the office of the Captain of the Port state that about eight o'clock there was considerable firing in the direction of the mouth of the river beyond the San Antonio fort.

The guards along the water front observed three native boats passing about 500 yards off shore. When they opened fire the boats beat a hasty retreat toward Paranaque. The prompt reception that the attempts met with from the soldiers will no doubt go a long way toward discouraging future disturbance.

SICK AND WOUNDED RETURN TO MANILA.

Last night's train which arrived in Manila at half-past ten brought down a large number of sick men who were sent in from General Lawton's expedition. The majority of the men are suffering from heat prostration and dysentery. The country through which the last week's march has been made is marshy and feverish, and in many places the rice fields are already covered with several inches of water. Fighting over such ground is very conducive to fevers and quickly exhausts the men. Altogether 91 sick and 20 wounded men were brought in, also one body.

The distance of the field operations of General McArthur's division from the train at Calumpit prevented the return of the men who were wounded in yesterday's fighting at Santa Tomas. They will be sent to the hospitals at Manila to-day.

THE "MONADNOCK" AT PARANAQUE.

Shortly after six o'clock this morning the *Monadnock* opened up with her heavy guns on the insurgent trenches near Paranaque. Firing continued at intervals until eight o'clock. For several days past the natives have been busy working on trenches along the beach, and though the hill is somewhat hidden by the thick brush that grows about the water's edge, it is believed that some attempt is being made to mount another gun.

CAPTURE OF SUSPICIOUS VESSELS.

The garbait *Petrel* arrived in the bay this morning, from Balayan. During her cruise she observed three schooners which acted in a suspicious manner. The *Petrel* overtook them and brought them in. Their names are *Champana*, *Enilio*, and *Venus*.

FILIPINO PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

Manila, 3rd May.

Shortly before noon yesterday morning, Colonel Arguelles and a Captain on Luna's staff, passed into the American lines near Calumpit and were taken to the headquarters of General McArthur, on the south bank of the Rio Grande. After an interview of half an hour they proceeded to Manila on the noon train in company with Major Mallory and Major Shields. They were met at the depot by Lieutenant Sladen, and later on visited the Ayuntamiento, where a conference was held with

General Otis. Later the Commissioners visited President Schurman, and spend two hours in discussing the situation. In a short conversation with Colonel Arguelles, it was learned that the Filipinos as a body were willing to surrender, but they wished to hold their congress before giving a final answer. They desired to negotiate before laying down their arms, which proposition, however, is just what General Otis will not entertain.

It is the general impression that some new proposition has been tendered by Aguinaldo. The exchange of prisoners is also being considered. It is understood that the first proposition of the Commissioners has been modified and changed according to suggestions received during the last visit to Manila. The conference was continued this morning.

Manila, 4th May.

The second visit of the Filipino Commissioners is more productive of surprises than the first. Not satisfied with being refused an armistice of three weeks, they came back with a new proposition asking for a complete cessation of hostilities in the "entire archipelago" for a period of three months. A little questioning promptly elicited the concession that the Filipinos did not claim active sovereignty over all the islands, but they believed it only a matter of time until all islands of the group would acknowledge the Filipino supremacy, and in the meantime they apparently wished an opportunity to thoroughly canvas the country and learn the disposition of the people. It is indeed a splendid scheme for Filipinos. Needless to say the proposition was not entertained.

After the morning conference Aguinaldo's envoys visited the American commissioners in the Audiencia, and spent two hours in discussing the situation.—*Manila Times*.

THE KOWLOON REBELS SENTENCED.

SIX MONTHS' HARD LABOUR.

The Kowloon rebels—four in number—who were taken prisoner by members of the Hongkong Regiment on the 17th of last month were again brought before Mr. T. Sercombe Smith at the Magistracy on the 8th May, Mr. Dennys appearing for the prosecution and Mr. Gedge for three of the defendants.

The following evidence was called for the defence:—

Cheong Kung Yan, temple keeper, said—I know second defendant, who is a farmer of Lam Chun. On the 17th April I went with him to Taipohu. He said he was going to see Mr. May. I saw second defendant return to his house at about 8.4 a.m. I went to speak to him and asked where he had been last night. He said Woon Wu. He said Mr. May ordered him to engage some men; more than 100. I asked what the wages per day were. I heard a noise. I went to see what it was. The people told me more than 1,000 men had come with arms, and they came to the village while I was in the house. The men and women of our village fled. The women handed their jewellery to their husbands and ran for the hills. Some women who had no husbands took their jewellery with them. The armed men were strangers and spoke Hakka, Punti, and Hoklo. In about ten minutes 1,000 men with weapons had passed our village. I then went out with second defendant to a high place to look. When we had been looking for about an hour we saw smoke rising below and I thought the strangers had burnt our houses. About ten minutes afterwards I saw the armed men running back towards our village and a short time after the Hongkong Regiment came. I and the second defendant went to them and begged them not to burn our houses. I think it was between eleven and noon. I went back to my house to get an umbrella and returned to the place where I left second defendant, but he was not there. On the road further on I saw the second defendant being pushed in front by the soldiers. It was not quite noon then. It might have been after noon. The second defendant wore a blue jacket and no hat. He was taken by the soldiers towards Pat-heung; I did not follow with them. I know the second and fourth defendants. The first defendant belongs to Leung Ah; the third is of the same village as the second. I know nothing about the doings of first defendant on

that day. On the 17th I saw the third defendant carrying his wife up a hill before the strangers came. I did not see what he did before or after that.

Wan Ah Yan said—I am a farmer living with Wan Kwong Choy, the first defendant, at Leung Ah. On 17th April I was out at work. A lot of soldiers came to our village. The first defendant put on his hat and coat and went out to chin chin the soldiers. They were foreign soldiers. Then he was pushed to go in front of them; this was soon after twelve. I did not see him after he went away with them. They were pushing him in front of them.

Yan Yee Chun, said—I am a bowl maker and live at Wun Yn village, near Taipohu. I know the second defendant, Sun Yin. I do not know third defendant. I know nothing about the 17th April.

Chung See, said—I am a farmer living at Choy Chek, near Taipohu. I know the third defendant, who is a farmer. On the 17th April I saw a lot of strangers fight with the soldiers and third defendant carried his wife out of the house and ran to a hill and then came back to remove his things. When he got to the yard of his house he met the soldiers who caught and searched him and a small gun was found on him. Several of the soldiers set upon him and beat him. One of the soldiers fired the small gun once and then they took third defendant away. I know nothing more.

By Mr. Dennys—I had not a gun. Third defendant had brought his gun from the outside country. He took it out to defend himself from robbers. I don't know if all the villagers have guns. It was between one and two o'clock when I saw third defendant. It was not after 4 o'clock.

By Mr. Gedge—I saw no other guns among the villagers. I don't know where the strangers came from.

Mr. Gedge for the defence argued that the Indians who gave evidence for the prosecution might easily have been mistaken; how their story might be perfectly true as regards facts but that these men might not be the ones referred to. He pointed out how they did not all agree upon certain points and dwelt upon the difficulties of cross-examination when unacquainted with the scene of the offence. It had been shown by witnesses for the defence that the defendants had been taken away by the soldiers earlier in the day than was stated by the witnesses for the prosecution. These men had not committed the acts with which they were charged. It was easy to make up facts to connect these men with the acts of others without wilful misstatement. The witnesses for the prosecution might be mistaken. Again, they might have done all that they were reputed to have done and it was only too probable that they had been forced to it by the strangers who had invaded their country and that with these men on the one hand and the British soldiers on the other they were between the devil and the deep sea. He also asked His Worship, if fully convinced of the guilt of the defendants, to take into consideration the absence of evidence to show that proclamations had been posted announcing that their country would be under British rule from the 17th April.

Fourth defendant said that he was a Tung Kun man and he went to see. He saw people with weapons running towards Pat-heung. He stood in a field at Pat Chek. Four Indian soldiers came and struck him to the ground and dragged him along. About 30 or 40 paces away a sword was picked up. They struck him on the breast and took him to Lum Choo. He was urged to carry bullets to Pat-heung. He had no witnesses.

Mr. Dennys pointed out to His Worship how leniently the Government were treating the men in the matter of allowing the case to be dealt with summarily and also in the way in which the charges had been framed, when they might well have been charged with attempted murder.

His Worship said that the evidence for the prosecution was quite sufficient to convict the defendants of the offences with which they stood charged. The evidence of the witnesses for the defence stopped short between noon and 2 p.m. on the 17th April and there was nothing to show what they

were doing after that, while they were taken at about 5 p.m. The prosecution, in wishing him to deal summarily with the matter, showed no desire to inflict the greatest possible punishment. But there were one or two things to be taken into consideration. It would be very unwise to allow the defendants to go back to their homes for some time. The new territory would have to be allowed to settle down first. If let off lightly a misinterpretation might be put upon the leniency of the sentence and he, therefore, did not think it advisable to inflict less than the full punishment. If the defendants returned in a shorter time others might be encouraged to do as they had done. He therefore sentenced the defendants each to six months, hard labour and, in order that the public might see how people who behaved in such a manner were held up to ridicule, the defendants would be publicly exposed in the stocks for six hours.

REBELLION IN WAICHOW AND CHIUCHOW.

10th May.

A rebellion has broken out in the Waichow and Chiuchow prefectures of the Kwangtung province. Waichow adjoins the north-eastern portion of the Sunon district, recently ceded to Hongkong, and Chiuchow is the next prefecture to the north and includes the port of Swatow. It is said that the rebels have formed a plan of marching across the province, joining the Kwangsi rebels, and then taking the route for Peking. In native circles, however, the movement is not regarded as of any particular moment, local risings being frequent in the prefectures named, the rebels retiring to the hills when the troops become too much for them and emerging again from their obscurity when the opportunity seems favourable. The civil and military mandarins of the districts have, however, made urgent requests to the Viceroy of Canton for reinforcements of troops and gunboats, and five gunboats and two bodies of troops, one consisting of three hundred men and the other of two hundred, have been despatched.

If the idea of making the East River the frontier of Hongkong's new territory were carried into effect Waichow would become British.

11th May.

Concerning the rebellion reported in yesterday's issue to have broken out in the Waichow district, we learn that the head quarters of the movement are at Lukfung, which will be found marked on the maps near Hie Chi Ching Bay. The rebels are mostly Chiuchow men belonging to secret societies, the chief being a man of the name of Cheang. On the 1st and 2nd inst. they mustered to the number of four or five thousand and attacked and occupied the villages of Kamseong, Siukin, and others, and were preparing to attack the city of Pokun, but the inhabitants of some seventy villages in the locality and the Volunteer forces turned out and drove them back. Communication by land and sea has been cut off.

REVIEW.

China. By Professor ROBERT K. DOUGLAS. London: T. Fisher Unwin. 1899.

THE fiftieth volume of Mr. Unwin's useful "Story of the Nations" series is devoted to China, and the task of writing the history of that country has been entrusted to the capable hands of Professor Douglas. The antiquity of China is so great, and the history of the Empire covers so vast a period, we are told in the preface, that it was plainly impossible to compress the whole subject within the limits of a single volume of the series; it was determined therefore, to limit the record, in the present instance, to the annals of the Empire from the time of Marco Polo to the present day, leaving the earlier history of the country to appear later. The first chapter, however, gives a concise epitome of the early history of the Empire, which is perhaps as much as the average reader will care for, for except to the specialist there is perhaps no history so void of all living interest to the European reader as the history of China prior to the days of foreign intercourse. The second chapter is devoted to the Yuan and Ming dynasties,

and in the third chapter we are brought up to the rise of the Manchus and the establishment of the present dynasty. Now that the attention of the world is so largely attracted by China, Professor Douglas's work should be cordially welcomed by all who desire to make themselves acquainted with the affairs of that empire or who, having already devoted some study to the subject, may desire to refresh their knowledge.

It is usual to consider China as being at present in a worse plight than ever before, but a perusal of her history suggests that this view may be due to defective perspective, as the country has often before been rent by internal dissension and been overrun by her northern neighbours, and in spite of all she has preserved her national characteristics and homogeneity. It is also too hastily assumed that the Chinaman, because he has not kept up with modern methods of warfare and is wedded to an antiquated system, cannot make a good soldier. But if the first quality of a soldier be combativeness, the Chinaman is certainly not lacking in it. Hardly a single reign is free from the record of rebellion, and these internecine disturbances have generally been attended by appalling loss of life. From this it would appear that the people are ready enough to kill or be killed in any cause they may espouse. Organisation and the acquisition of skill in the use of modern weapons are matters of intelligence, a quality in which the Chinese as a race are not lacking. Greed of pelf and the spirit of corruption are a bar to military efficiency under the present system; but when the government has been revolutionised, as sooner or later it must be, China may no longer be considered a weakling amongst nations.

Professor Douglas falls into a common error in stating the cause of the war between China and Japan. He quotes the provision of the treaty that "in case of any disturbance of a grave nature occurring in Korea, which may oblige the respective countries or either of them to send troops to Korea, it is hereby understood that they shall give, each to the other, previous notice in writing of their intention so to do, and that after the matter is settled they shall withdraw their troops and not further station them in the country"—and says that "the last clause is worthy of attention, as it was the infringement of it, or alleged infringement of it, on the part of China, which led to the outbreak of the recent war with Japan." According to the rescript of the Emperor of Japan declaring war upon China the cause of the war was that China declined to co-operate with Japan in bringing about Korea's reformation, and secretly and insidiously endeavoured to circumvent and thwart Japan's purpose. It was not a mere question of the movement of troops as arranged for by previous treaty.

In one respect Professor Douglas's book is disappointing. It purports, it is true, to be a history of China, and not specially a history of British relations with China but we must confess that we would have been better pleased had more attention been given to the latter. We have heard much of late years of the loss of British prestige in China—now happily recovered—and the author would have rendered a public service had he exhibited distinctly the causes of that loss. Perhaps we should speak of cause in the singular rather than in the plural, for it consisted simply in the idea that took possession of the Liberal Government in the eighties that there was more to be got from China by truckling than by firmness. This unfortunate idea found expression in two main incidents, namely, the consent to send a tribute mission from Burmah to Peking and subjection to humiliation in connection with the audience question. On the first-named of these incidents Professor Douglas is sound enough, so far as he goes, but his treatment of the audience question does not accord it anything like the importance it deserves. The reference to the Burmah mission is as follows:—

"The year 1886 was a busy year in foreign politics, more especially so far as relations with Great Britain were concerned. At this time King Thebaw's misdoings had led to our occupation of Upper Burma, a territory over which China claimed suzerain rights. With that tender regard for the feelings of the

Emperor and his ministers which has always distinguished our Foreign Office, it was agreed that if China would consent no longer to interfere in Burmese politics, the decennial tribute mission should continue to be despatched to Peking. The folly of this arrangement soon became apparent. Since 1842 our main endeavour in dealing with the Chinese had been to bring home to their consciousness the fact that as a nation we were to be treated on terms of perfect equality with themselves. At this eleventh hour, therefore, to proclaim ourselves tributary to Peking was one of those acts of folly which are to be accounted for only by presupposing on the part of the Foreign Office a complete ignorance of Asiatics and their modes of thought. With a return to a more reasonable mind the arrangement was discontinued."

China at that time had been giving France trouble in Tonkin, and Lord Rosebery, to use plain language, got into a funk with reference to Burmah. The consequences on our position at Peking were serious. Lord Rosebery was again the Foreign Secretary when Mr. (now Sir) Nicholas O'Connor submitted to his humiliating audience in 1883 in the Cheng Kwang Tien, while the Ministers of France and Russia declined to be received in audience unless in the precincts of the Palace itself. It is a sinister coincidence that Sir Nicholas O'Connor was also Chargé d'Affaires when the Burmah Convention was negotiated. How the blame should be apportioned between Lord Rosebery, Sir Nicholas O'Connor, and the permanent officials of the Foreign Office we do not know, but between them they struck a blow at England's prestige in China from which we have barely yet recovered.

In taking leave of Professor Douglas and his interesting work we would commend to the attention of the friends of China the following paragraph:—

"The policy of throwing open the whole coast line to trade is the only one which will secure the Empire against the attack of grasping Powers. By the favoured nation clause no Power can acquire any rights at the treaty ports which are not shared by all the signatories. Any attempt therefore to grasp at exclusive privileges on the part of any one nation would be met by the united opposition of the rest of their number, and in the present helpless condition of the State, and the known greed of various governments, this is the only sure and certain means of defence that the Empire possesses."

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

The fortnightly meeting of the Hongkong Sanitary Board was held on the 11th May. The chair was occupied by the President (Dr. J. M. Atkinson, Principal Civil Medical Officer), the Hon. R. D. Ormsby (Director of Public Works), Mr. A. W. Brown (Acting Registrar-General), Mr. E. Osborne, Dr. Clark (Medical Officer of Health), and Mr. J. W. Duggan (secretary).

QUARTERLY INSPECTIONS.

The Vice-President (the Hon. F. H. May) had given notice of a motion as to quarterly inspections, but as he was absent it was postponed.

THE VENICE SANITARY CONVENTION.

Further correspondence was submitted re the colony's adhesion to the Venice Sanitary Convention. In a despatch dated 17th March the Right Hon. J. Chamberlain, referring to a despatch on the subject by Major-General Black, says:—

"I understand from this report that the difficulties in the way of complete adhesion were chiefly felt in connection with vessels arriving from Canton or other ports in the near vicinity of Hongkong which might at any time be infected, but I must point out that during the discussion the definition of healthy vessels as laid down in section 8 of chapter II. of the convention appears to have been misapprehended. In accordance with this section a vessel should be regarded as healthy, even though coming from an infected port, however near that port may be to the colony, provided that there has been no death from a case of plague on board either before departure, during the voyage, or on arrival. In the case of healthy or even

suspected vessels observation is not allowed by the convention and surveillance is only recommended. If the colony adheres to the convention the Local Government has power to decide whether it shall adopt this recommendation or not. In so far as the difficulties experienced at Hongkong are concerned with the large coolie traffic the Sanitary Board appear not to have noticed that the convention distinctly exempts such traffic from the restrictions imposed under it and gives absolute discretion to each Government to deal with traffic of this kind in the manner which is deemed best under the local circumstances. The actual words are, "Special measures may be prescribed for crowded ships, particularly for emigrant ships, and coasting vessels will be subject to special rules to be drawn up conjointly by the countries concerned." I am, therefore, disposed to think that there should be no difficulty in dealing with the greater number of vessels, which would be classed as healthy, suspected, or emigrant ships, and I would still urge upon you the desirability of arranging for observation or surveillance, preferably the latter, in the case of the remainder, that is, infected ships not engaged in the emigrant traffic."

Dr. Clark minuted:—"The Government of the Colony should, as I urged as far back as August, 1897, become a party to the Venice Convention without delay. The question of the 'surveillance' or 'observation' of persons arriving in healthy ships from infected ports within ten days from their date of departure therefrom is an entirely separate question to be dealt with by the local Government, as was indicated by my making that a separate resolution on that occasion and as is again pointed out to the Board by the Secretary of State. The Board decided in October last that surveillance is impracticable in this Colony and that for observation an efficiently equipped quarantine station is necessary, but in either case the method adopted need only be applied to infected ships; i. e. ships on board which a case of bubonic plague has actually occurred within twelve days previous to the date of arrival—and only a maximum period is laid down in the Convention for this, so that it may cease as desired when the healthy passengers are permitted by the health Officer of the Port to leave the ships."

Dr. Atkinson minuted—"It may be possible for the Sanitary Board to recommend the Government of this colony to become a party to the Venice Convention, as the despatch of the Secretary of State points out that the Convention exempts emigrant ships from the restrictions imposed under it, and leaves it to the local Government to make special measures dealing with this class of vessel and with coasting vessels. As practically all the important steamship lines, e.g.—the Canadian Pacific, the P. and O. Co., the P. M. and the O. and O. Co., and the Indian boats—carry emigrants, it leaves but very few vessels to be dealt with; i. e. infected ships not engaged in the emigrant traffic, and 'surveillance' might be practicable with these few ships. Before, I read it that 'crowded ships, particularly emigrant ships,' referred to in the Convention, applied to the ships carrying pilgrims to the Red Sea, and did not include ships carrying coolies in the East."

Dr. CLARK said he had no wish to discuss this question again. It was fully threshed out a couple of years ago by the Board, but he thought that in view of the despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies he would be justified in moving the resolution he moved in August in favour of the Colony becoming a party to the Venice Convention. He thought the Secretary of State had now made it very clear to the members of the Board that they could adopt the Venice Convention without any particular difficulties arising.

The PRESIDENT, in seconding, said he would draw the attention of the Board to the fact that two years ago the sole difficulty which prevented them becoming a party to the convention was the large coolie traffic, but as in this despatch it was clearly pointed out it was left to the local Government to make regulations dealing with the coolie traffic, they would have to deal with very few ships, and he thought there would be no difficulty in dealing with those ships which might arrive, because the passengers would be

chiefly Europeans or perhaps one or two better-class Chinese.

Mr. OSBORNE said one point occurred to him in connection with this matter—what was an emigrant ship? How many coolies would have to be on board to entitle a ship to come under local regulations, because there were a large number of coolies, and they could hardly call them emigrant ships.

The motion was carried.

PROHIBITION OF CATTLE SHEDS WITHIN CERTAIN LIMITS.

Dr. Clarke, Mr. E. Osborne, and Mr. C. V. Ladds, the sub-committee on the prohibition of cattle sheds within certain limits, reported as follows:—

"We have the honour to report that we have considered the question of the licensing of cattle sheds within the limits of the city of Victoria, and have interviewed the Chinese cattle owners having sheds in Wanchai. We are of the opinion that the Board should refuse to license or to renew existing licenses for any cattle sheds in the city to the westward of the stream in the Sookumpoo Valley (which has its outlet in the angle of Causeway Bay) after January 1st, 1900. This will give the existing licensees in Wanchai some seven months in which to make the necessary arrangements for the removal of their cattle, and as the present sheds are mostly domestic buildings which have been converted to that purpose and are merely rented and not owned by the cattle owners, we do not consider that the enforcement of such a regulation will prove any hardship to these men."

On the motion of Dr. CLARK, seconded by the Hon. R. D. ORMSBY, the report was adopted.

PUBLIC LATRINES.

A letter was read from the Colonial Secretary, replying to a communication from the Board, stating that a vote of \$5,000 for public latrines was to be inserted in the estimates for 1900.

APPLICATION FOR EXEMPTION FROM LIMEWASHING.

Mr. Ho TUNG applied for exemption from limewashing Nos. 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, and 12, Square Street, and 2, 4, and 6, Taipingshan Street, "all of which are new houses, having been built and occupied only in October last and are in a cleanly condition." He also made a similar application in connection with other property belonging to him.

The matter had been handed over to Inspector Reidie to report upon, and the Inspector had reported that the premises were not clean enough to warrant the exemption asked for. Accordingly, on the motion of Mr. OSBORNE seconded by the Hon. R. D. ORMSBY, the application was refused.

THE TREATMENT OF RINDERPEST.

A report was submitted from the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon of Ceylon on bile inoculation in rinderpest, and also the following report from Mr. Ladds (Colonial Veterinary Surgeon of Hongkong) on the same subject:—

"Dr. Koch's bile inoculation for rinderpest has answered fairly well in some cases where it has been applied on draught or store oxen, but in my opinion is unsuited to the treatment of dairy cows. In the first case the period of immunity given with bile inoculation alone is said to be very short indeed, and in the second there is always the danger that when inoculating with bile taken from diseased animals or those which have died from the disease that rinderpest itself may result from the inoculation."

Nothing was done in the matter.

LIMEWASHING.

Mr. OSBORNE, quoting from a return, said that there were now in the central district only about 43 houses which either had not been limewashed or in connection with which notice of their having been limewashed had not been sent in. That was so far good. Now they had to deal with the Western District, which included some of the dirtiest slums in the colony and where the plague was at the present moment the worst. There were some 2,636 tenements to be cleansed during the months of May and June; of these 325 had been cleansed up to date. He proposed that notices be inserted in the European and Chinese papers every Monday calling upon the people in the Western District to limewash their tenements, and warning them that proceedings would be taken against them if it is

not done.

The PRESIDENT seconded and the motion was carried.

APPLICATION FOR A PLAGUE PROCESSION.

The PRESIDENT said application had been received for permission to hold a procession, and the matter had been referred to the Sanitary Board. It was proposed to hold the procession at West Point on Monday night, Tuesday, and Tuesday night, the procession to stop at midnight. Application was also made for permission to fire crackers as the procession passed along.

Mr. OSBORNE—This is a plague procession is it not?

Dr. CLARK—Yes, it is for mitigating the plague.

The PRESIDENT said the question was whether it was advisable for large crowds to assemble in the part of the town affected with plague. Personally he was against it because the noise would annoy the patients at the hospital.

On the motion of Mr. OSBORNE, seconded by the Hon. R. D. ORMSBY, it was decided to grant the application, on the understanding that the firing of crackers and beating of gongs cease at nine o'clock in the evening, and that no crackers be fired or gongs beaten within a certain distance of the Hospital.

THE PLAGUE AT TAINAN.

A report was submitted concerning the further progress of bubonic plague at Tainan, Formosa, from April 18th to April 24th (both days inclusive). It showed that there were 178 cases, there being 145 deaths and 39 recoveries. From Jan. 7th to April 24th there were 1,525 cases, there being 1,117 deaths and 192 recoveries.

This was all the business.

SPECIAL MEETING.

A special meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on the 10th May for the purpose of considering an outbreak of rinderpest at the East Point Dairy. From a report of Mr. C. V. Ladds, the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon, it appeared that 99 cows, 44 bulls, and 22 calves were housed on the premises, in addition to 11 buffaloes and 11 buffalo calves. Of these 8 cows showed symptoms of infection. On the motion of Dr. Clark, seconded by Dr. Atkinson, the premises were declared infected. Mr. Osborne moved that the diseased cattle be slaughtered and that the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon be authorised to slaughter such other cattle as may show signs of disease and are not likely in his opinion to recover, and he further recommended that the owners of the East Point Dairy take such steps as may be advised them by the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon to prevent the spread of disease. Dr. Clark seconded the resolution and it was carried.

FIRE IN HOLLYWOOD ROAD.

SEVERAL PERSONS MISSING. A WOMAN KILLED.

11th May.

A fire broke out last night in a Chinese house in Hollywood Road, just beyond Aberdeen Street, going westward. At about eleven o'clock smoke was seen issuing from a room on the ground floor, but before the fire brigade could reach the spot the flames had reached the first storey and out off the egress of two or three people, who were slightly burnt before being rescued. The flames made rapid headway and before the reels could be brought into full play the fire took a fair hold of two dwellings and soon extended to two more. Three or four of the houses were gutted in about half an hour, but when all the reels available were brought into play the conflagration was got under, and by 12.30 the flames had subsided. The origin as yet is not known.

12th May.

The fire which broke out on the ground floor of 118, Hollywood Road, at about eleven o'clock on Wednesday evening has had most serious consequences. During the conflagration the inmates of the first floor, which was occupied as a dwelling house, and the inmates of the second floor, which was occupied as a boarding house, escaped by a side door leading into the lane. Eight persons, however, who occupied the ground floor are missing, and it is feared that they are

buried beneath the debris. All day yesterday Inspector Hanna and a gang of men were at work removing the rubbish and searching for the missing. In the morning a woman was found dead in the cookhouse of No. 114. Judging from the marks on the roof of the house she had been going along the roof and had slipped through a smokehole. Up to six o'clock last night no further bodies had been found. There still remained, however, a large amount of debris to be removed. The houses both at Nos. 116 and 118 are completely gutted, and it is wonderful that the Fire Brigade prevented the fire from spreading still further.

The search was discontinued when darkness came on.

FATAL ACCIDENT IN THE HARBOUR.

The U. S. cruiser *Charleston* celebrated the first anniversary of her commission on Saturday last, sports being held on board in the afternoon and a masquerade ball taking place at night; the band of the Royal Welch Fusiliers supplying the music.

It had been arranged to have boat races as well, but they were abandoned in consequence of a regrettable accident which occurred in the morning. At about half-past nine the steam launch *Connie* was lying alongside the *Charleston*, the occupants of the launch being Mr. Meyers, agent for Pabst Beer Company, and several Chinese. She lay immediately under the *Charleston's* whale boat, in which were an ordinary seaman and a couple of apprentices, who were clearing out the boat and getting her ready for the race in the afternoon. One of the apprentices accidentally touching the lever with his foot, the boat was released from the davits and fell heavily upon the launch, smashing the top of the deck-house to splinters. Mr. Meyers was seriously injured about the head and internally and two of the Chinese crew were also badly hurt, one of them, who has since died, having his back broken. Others of the launch's crew were slightly injured, as also were those in the whale boat. The *Charleston's* surgeon was promptly in attendance, and having seen to the injured the *Connie* returned with them to Pedder's Wharf, whence they were conveyed in ambulances to the Hospital.

We regret to say that Mr. Meyers died at about half-past seven on Sunday morning. He was buried in the afternoon in Happy Valley, wreaths being sent from the *Charleston*. Much sympathy is felt for his widow, who was staying with him in the colony, in her sudden bereavement.

THE PLAGUE.

On Saturday an engineer, named James McInnes, on board Messrs. Marty's steamer *Hailing* was found to be suffering from plague and was removed to the hospital at Kennedy town, a Chinaman similarly afflicted being removed from the same ship.

At the Magistracy on Saturday Mr. T. Sercombe Smith had before him a Chinese doctor named Mong Mok Shang, who lives at No. 53, Queen's Road West, on the charge of neglecting to report a case of plague, the case being that of a Chinese lady who died at 63, Third Street. Defendant tried to evade the Magistrate's questions with regard to the time he had been in the Colony, and as to what the disease was his patient was suffering from. In answer to a series of questions, he said the cause of death was due to heat and then excessive heat. "Was it plague?" asked the Magistrate. "You might call it plague," replied the medico. —His Worship:—Is it the same thing that lots of people have been dying of in Tungkun? —Defendant:—Yes. He added that he did not know the law, whereupon His Worship told him that he should not practise until he did. His duty as a doctor was to report a case of plague as soon as it came under his notice. A fine of \$10, or seven days, was imposed.

The return showing the number of cases of communicable diseases notified as occurring last week is as follows:—Bubonic plague, 64 cases, 52 deaths; enteric fever, 1 case; small-pox, 3 cases, 3 deaths.

WATER RETURN.

LEVEL AND STORAGE OF WATER IN RESERVOIRS ON THE 1ST MAY.

LEVEL.	
1898.	1899.
Tytam 35ft. 0in. below overflow	65ft. 4in. below overflow
Pokfulam 11ft. 6in. below overflow	33ft. 3in. below overflow

STORAGE GALLONS.	
1898.	1899.
Tytam 148,100,000	42,160,000
Pokfulam 34,980,000	4,760,000

Total	183,080,000	46,920,000
-------	-------------	------------

CONSUMPTION OF WATER IN THE CITY OF VICTORIA AND HILL DISTRICT DURING THE MONTH OF APRIL.

1898.		1899.	
Consumption	90,085,000	56,262,000	gals.
Estimated population	194,500	200,000	

Consumption per head per day	15.4	9.3	gals.
------------------------------	------	-----	-------

CONSUMPTION OF WATER IN KOWLOON PENINSULA DURING THE MONTH OF APRIL.

1898.		1899.	
Consumption	5,303,000	6,613,000	gals.
Estimated population	25,600	26,800	

Consumption per head per day	6.9	8.2	gals.
------------------------------	-----	-----	-------

The Government Analyst reports that the water is of excellent quality.

R. D. ORMSBY,
Water Authority.

A MARINE IN TROUBLE.

At the Magistracy yesterday morning a marine from H.M.S. *Tamar* named Nicholas Oxley was charged with being drunk and disorderly and also with assaulting P.C. 744 and causing him to lose his lamp.

It was stated that defendant and another man went into the Hongkong Hotel and became very disorderly. They wanted to go behind the bar, and the boy called the watchman to put them outside. Defendant assaulted the watchman, who called the police. P.C. 744 came up and he struggled with defendant, and in the struggle he lost his lamp, which had since been recovered undamaged. The constable got assistance, and defendant was brought to the Police Station.

Inspector Warnock said he was in the Central Police Station when defendant was brought in the previous evening. He was very much excited and was under the influence of drink.

His Worship—What made you think he was under the influence of drink?—His manner.

What did he do?—He was held by two men and was struggling to get away.

That would hardly show he was under the influence of drink, would it? Was there any smell of drink about him?—I did not smell any.

Could he stand?—Yes he stood up. Witness added that he did not see defendant walk by himself; he was leaning on the bar in front of the desk in the charge room.

Defendant said—I went into the Hongkong Hotel last night about ten o'clock to get a drink. I had a dog with me and a friend. The dog went behind the bar. I went behind the bar to get the dog away when an Indian came up and gave me a clout which knocked me against the glasses. Then he ran out of the door and I went after him. He tore a three-yard flannel off my back, and knocked me down and nearly choked me. There are the marks on my neck now. He blew his whistle and three or four policemen joined him and brought me to the Police Station.

The case was allowed to stand over for a short time to allow of the man who was with defendant being called as a witness.

On appearing defendant's friend—James Clue, another marine—said that between nine and ten the previous night Oxley and he went to the Hongkong Hotel bar. Witness called for two glasses of beer, but as they wanted to charge him 40 cents for it he would not have it. He asked to see the manager. When going to see him the Sikh doorkeeper stopped them and said they could not see the manager. The Sikh then pushed Oxley, whose helmet dropped off. As he was stooping to pick it up the Sikh went

away. Oxley went for him and a policeman came and dragged him away, Oxley being eventually taken to the Police Station. They came ashore at two o'clock and had several drinks.

William Bowden, a Corporal in the Marines, from H.M.S. *Aurora*, said he was corporal of the picket the previous night between 10 and 12. He saw a marine apprehended by the civil police, but he could not recognise him. The previous witness came to him, and he asked the civil police to hand the marine over to him but this they refused to do, and he went away. The man in charge was under the influence of liquor.

Defendant was fined \$10, or 14 days, for disorderly conduct.

HONGKONG CRICKET CLUB LAWN TENNIS TOURNAMENT.

Two interesting matches took place on the Cricket Ground on Wednesday afternoon in the Lawn Tennis Tournament. Mr. Pinckney and Mr. H. Humphreys met in the final for the championship, the former winning by three sets to love—6-0, 6-3, 6-2. Although the loser scored nothing in the first set the games were all closely contested, most of them being carried up to deuce, but Pinkney was always a point too good for his opponent. The play was very fast all through the three sets, hard driving being the characteristic of both players, varied very occasionally by a little net play. The other match was between Major Griffin and Dr. Atkinson in the final of the Veterans' handicap, Major Griffin winning by three sets to one—2-6, 6-0, 6-2, 6-0. Long rallies were frequent, and the match was followed with interest by a large number of spectators. Major Griffin possesses a great advantage in being able to use his bat equally well with either hand; his staying power also seemed rather better than the doctor's. The games were keenly contested, but neither player got much pace on the ball, the driving being rather slow as compared with the quick play witnessed in the championship.

The following are the results in the finals of the whole tournament:—

CHAMPIONSHIP.

H. Pinckney beat H. Humphreys—6-0, 6-3, 6-2.

"A" CLASS SINGLE HANDICAP.

Capt. Langhorne, owe 15.3, beat H. Pinckney, owe 30—4-6, 7-5, 2-6, 9-7, 6-4.

"B" CLASS SINGLE HANDICAP.

A. Humphreys, owe 15, beat R. M. Ezekiel, scratch—6-0, 6-2, 6-1.

DOUBLE HANDICAP.

Viscount Suirdale and Major Griffin, owe 15.3, beat W. King and W. Mayson, receive 2/6 15—6-3, 6-4, 6-3.

PROFESSIONAL AND COMMERCIAL PAIRS.

T. Sercombe Smith and Dr. J. M. Atkinson beat H. Brayne and Wei On—6-2, 8-6, 6-2.

VETERANS' SINGLE HANDICAP.

Major Griffin, owe 15.3, beat Dr. J. M. Atkinson, owe 15.3—2-6, 6-0, 6-3, 6-0.

At Canton on the 3rd inst. a grand review of the Native and Manchu troops was held on the East Parade Ground, at which the Tartar General, the Viceroy, and many civil and military mandarins and some Europeans were present. On the following day a review of the Volunteer Corps was held.

As the Japanese Mail steamer *Saikio Maru* was making for Shanghai early on the morning of the 3rd May, she ran into the pilot boat No. 2, which was at anchor inside the Bell Buoy. The pilot boat sank, but the crew were all saved. Mr. J. D. C. Arthur, the pilot, had left his boat and had just got alongside the steamer in his dinghy at the time the collision occurred.

The other day three convicts escaped from the Municipal gaol at Shanghai. One of them was recaptured, but during the time he was at liberty he took opium. He died shortly after being brought back to custody, but previously, at the Laoza police station, is understood to have informed one of the Chinese detectives that death was infinitely preferable to a return to prison. He also feared a reappearance in the Mixed Court, where he said he would not only be awarded a longer period of incarceration, but he dreaded the corporal punishment which must accompany the sentence.

RIFLE MATCH.

A Rifle match took place on Saturday between teams representing the Royal Engineers, Volunteer Corps, the Royal Navy, and the Royal Welch Fusiliers. The following are the scores:—

	ROYAL ENGINEERS.			Total.
	200 yards.	500 yards.	600 yards.	
Sergt. Bowery	34	34	31	99
Corpl. Ramsden	32	32	32	96
C. Sgt. Mjr. Wallace	31	31	33	95
Corpl. Leadingham	33	32	26	91
Sap. Clarke	30	32	28	90
Sap. King	31	23	27	86
Corpl. Hills	30	34	22	86
Corpl. Turner	27	28	27	82
	246	251	226	725

VOLUNTEER CORPS.				
Gun. Toller	33	32	29	94
Sergt. Skelton	33	30	29	92
Sergt. Drum Brown	31	31	28	90
Gun. Stewart	30	32	27	89
Corpl. Gow	31	31	27	89
Sergt. Hart	28	31	29	88
Capt. Chapman	32	32	23	87
Sergt. McPhail	29	27	29	85
	247	246	221	714

ROYAL NAVY.				
Sergt. Cooper R.M.L.I.	31	33	31	95
Corpl. Brewster	29	31	33	93
Pt. Bland	33	30	28	91
Lt. Strong R.M.L.I.	31	32	25	88
E. R. A. Beck	33	25	29	87
W. Read	28	32	26	86
Pt. Endicott	29	34	23	86
Lt. Goodenough	32	32	22	86
	246	249	217	712

ROYAL WELCH FUSILIERS.				
Corpl. Sutherland	32	34	31	97
Lt. Geiger	32	32	30	94
Sergt. Burke	30	33	29	92
Col. Sergt. Jones	32	30	28	90
—Chertiers	31	34	25	90
Sergt. Doolan	30	28	28	86
Col. Sergt. Ruscol	29	29	27	85
P. Pond	28	24	25	77
	244	244	223	711

THE ROYAL HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.

CAPTAIN'S CUP AND SILVER MEDAL FOR MAY.

Wet weather during the meeting interfered somewhat with the attendance of members for the monthly cup and pool, the entries for which were much below the average, and the returns poor:—

CAPTAIN'S CUP.			
Lient. Rotherham, R.W.F.	99	11	88
Mr. J. F. Noble	104	15	89
Mr. S. Fulcher	104	14	90
Mr. C. A. Tomes	100	8	92
15 entries.			

POOL.			
Mr. S. Fulcher	104	14	90
Mr. C. A. Tomes	100	8	92
2 entries.			

PROFESSIONAL PAIRS.

Conditions and draw are posted at the Club house. First ties to be played on or before 15th inst., second ties by 22nd inst., and semi final on or before the 30th inst.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED.

The annual meeting of the shareholders of A. S. Watson & Co., Limited, was held at the Hongkong Dispensary on the 8th May. There were present Mr. H. Humphreys (Chairman), Captain Clarke, Captain Hall, Messrs. J. A. Jupp, R. E. Humphreys, W. S. Bamsey, G. C. Cox, E. H. Joseph, J. A. Tarrant, and A. H. Mancell, (Secretary).

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, the report and statement of accounts having been before you since the 29th April we will with your permission consider them as read. The net profits of the Company for 1898 are greater than those for 1897 by \$14,038.23. This is

mainly due to augmented profits in Manila, Hongkong, and London. The disastrous fire which occurred at our Hankow branch last July necessarily entailed a loss of business, and caused a falling off in the profits of that branch for the year under review. But for this we should have had an even better result to put before you. You will have noticed that the property known as Remaining Portion Inland Lot No. 19 and the buildings thereon does not appear amongst your assets this year, having been sold for \$115,000 as mentioned at our last meeting. Against this your local and general liabilities, bank loan account, and bills payable have decreased altogether by \$117,398.22, whilst your asset of cash in hand and at bankers is increased by \$21,050.75. Your properties, standing in the books at a total of \$234,000, have enhanced in value. This is especially the case with the Kowloon Inland Lots 540, 550, 551 and with Inland Lot No. 16 and the buildings thereon, which could now be sold for considerably more than the amount at which they appear in the accounts. The whole of the block on Inland Lot No. 16 is well let at remunerative rentals. The volume of business for the first four months of this year shows an increase over the corresponding period of last year, so that we see no reason, if all continues to go well, why we should not come before you with equally good results next year. Before proceeding to the adoption of the report and statement of accounts, I shall be pleased to answer any questions referring to them.

No questions being asked the CHAIRMAN moved the adoption of the report and accounts. Mr. Cox seconded.

Carried.

On the motion of Mr. R. E. HUMPHREYS, seconded by Capt. Clarke, Mr. F. Maitland was re-elected auditor.

The CHAIRMAN announced that the dividend warrants would be ready at ten o'clock this morning.

OLIVERS FREEHOLD MINES, LIMITED.

We are informed by Messrs. John D. Humphreys and Son, General Managers of Olivers Freehold Mines, Limited, that the following telegrams have been received from their Agents in Sydney:—

"During April 390 tons of stone were crushed for a yield of 118 czs of retorted gold, mill ran 15 days. Mr. Roberts (Consulting Engineer) Mr. C. Banks (agent) leave for the mine tomorrow."

"Mill stopped for boiler to be cleaned and repaired 12 days. Developments promise well. The shaft at the 200 ft. level south assays 23 dwts. per ton; the width of the vein is 2 ft.; this is perfectly new to us. This intermediate drift at 250 ft. North, 2 ft. 6 inches wide, assays 31 dwts. per ton. Cannot work the mill full time owing to stopes not yet ready. The whole of the upper levels above 150 ft. worked out. Instructions have been given given to crush only high grade ore."

STRAITS INSURANCE CO., LIMITED.

The twenty second ordinary general meeting of the Straits Insurance Co. was held at Singapore on the 3rd May for the purpose of receiving the Directors' annual report and accounts.

The Hon. T. C. Bogaardt took the chair and there were also present Messrs. D. W. Lovell, T. S. Thomson, Hon. G. S. Murray, A. W. Stiven, W. Naef Directors; Hon. J. Burkinshaw, legal adviser; Mr. A. S. Murray, secretary; Messrs. Gentle, Moses, Catto, Chew Swee Tiong, Loh Yap Soon, R. E. Sassoon, L. B. Hannaford, H. Abrams, shareholders, representing 18,470 shares.

The Chairman said—The fifteenth annual report and balance sheet of the Company has been in your hands for some time past and, as customary, if you have no objection, we will take it as read. A summary of the information contained in this report was conveyed to you by circular, issued early in February, and the financial position has since been placed before you and fully explained at the extraordinary general meetings of the Company recently held. Our premium income has been well maintained,

the reduction of £10,000 in the net amount of premiums as compared with the previous year being due to the reduced limits retained, and not to any falling away of business. The expenses incurred in the liquidation of the old accounts fall heavily on 1898 account, and a large portion of these expenses is really chargeable not against the income of 1898 but of 1897/1897. I am glad to report that the end of our liability under these old accounts is in sight, and the amount still to be paid can now be closely estimated. Since the beginning of the current year we have paid £3,250 on the accounts prior to 1898, and it is reasonably certain that another £3,000, or at most £1,000 will finally liquidate these accounts. Our expenses for the first quarter of this year are £1,500 less than for the corresponding period in 1898. From the gales in the English Channel and Atlantic during February-March we were interested in vessels totally lost to the extent of £2,600 only, and our financial position to-day is stronger than at the date of the report now before you. We have ample funds for the security of our policy holders, as, after providing a sufficient amount to cover outstanding liabilities we have £30,000 of cash capital intact, besides the uncalled liability on the subscribed shares. With regard to the scheme of reconstruction, which has been accepted practically unanimously by the shareholders, a telegram has this morning been received from Mr. Forwood, stating that satisfactory progress has been made, that the Board of Directors of the new Company is all but complete, and that he will report completed arrangements very shortly. I shall be glad to answer any questions and give any further information you may wish for.

There being no questions, on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Abrams, the report and accounts were adopted and passed.

The re-election of the retiring directors and the auditors concluded the business of the meeting.

JELEBU MINING AND TRADING CO., LIMITED.

SHAREHOLDERS' GENERAL MEETING.

The nineteenth ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the Jelebu Mining and Trading Company was held at Singapore on the 29th April, for the purpose of receiving the directors' report and accounts for the half-year, ended February 9th last. Mr. Arnot Reid presided and there were also present: the Hon. Dr. Lim Boon Keng, Messrs. D. P. MacDougall, and Jackson Millar (directors) and Messrs. E. M. Nathan, H. Hilton, J. Gardener, Allan, Diez, H. Windrath, Yeo Swee Hee, W. Ewald and B. A. Alias, shareholders.

The Chairman said—Gentlemen, I regret that Mr. Joaquim, our chairman, is unable to be present because of illness. It has therefore been suggested that I should take the chair, and I will follow the usual precedent by pointing out that the report and accounts have been circulated, and by asking you to take them as read. Any further information beyond what is in the report that I can give you I will be pleased to give, but I think you will find the report is so definitely informing on some points that there is little more to add. The condition of the Jelebu Rin Lode, in which you are all much interested, is described in the report accurately. Nevertheless, it may interest you to hear the following extracts from a letter from our mining manager, dated the 15th April. Mr. Roberts, writing on that date says:—

"I have the honour to inform you your mine is now looking better than at any previous time, and the lodes at the lower levels are turning out well. At the 160 ft. level, we have both No. 1 and 2 lodes; the former averages 3 feet thick containing 3½ per cent tin ore. Drives east and west on this lode will be pushed on with as rapidly as possible. The No. 2 lode, same level, is 3ft. 6in. thick to the eastward, and 2 feet to the westward; so far we have only driven a few feet on this lode, which is improving rapidly and at present contains nearly 2 per cent of tin ore."

Proceeding at some length, with which I need not trouble you, to report on the details of the mining operations, Mr. Roberts winds up as follows:—

If the mine be worked throughout at the various faces laid open, we could easily keep a 20 head battery going. At the present time we have fully 60,000 tons of lode stuff in sight, 30,000 tons of which contain about 3½ per cent of tin ore and the remainder 2 per cent tin ore, in addition to which we have about 3,000 tons at grass which contain about 3½ per cent tin ore. This latter will last a 10 head battery some months, and the former would keep a 20 head battery constantly crushing for 5 years. In conclusion, I can only state your mine is turning out fully up to promise, and should be a good dividend-payer if properly equipped."

Gentlemen, I have given you the exact words of the mining manager, and it only remains for me to say that, so far as I can judge, the company has in the Rin Lode a very valuable property. It is true that the property only stands in our books at the value of \$62,000, which is less than the amount actually spent upon it; but you have to remember that that small expenditure represents exceptionally favourable circumstances of working. In other words, if the Rin Lode at Jelebu had been developed, say by a London Company, there would have been charged against it the expenses of a Board in London, the expenses of an office, the expenses of a branch office in Singapore, and the maintenance of an administrative staff at Jelebu. All such charges the Rin Lode has hitherto escaped, since nothing has been put to its debit but money actually expended on the working of the lode. Administrative charges of all kinds have been paid out of the profit and loss of the Jelebu Company from half-year to half-year. I think I may safely say that at a book value £6,000, you have the Rin Lode in such a condition as would represent many times that expenditure if it had been developed by a London Company; and you have no charge at all for the concession, which was obtained in the ordinary course of the Company's operations at Jelebu. Well, as to the future, of course one cannot judge of a mining property thoroughly until it be subjected to the test of working on a considerable scale. But we are approaching to that test, and we hope that the test will give favourable results. Our mining manager speaks favourably of the lode, our general manager speaks favourably of it, and all those persons who have visited Jelebu seem to be highly impressed with the appearance of our workings. The most hopeful feature of the situation of course is the price of tin. When we first decided to prospect the Rin Lode at Jelebu, tin was about half its present price, and on calculations made when tin was about half its present price we saw our way to working the lode at what might be regarded as a fair commercial profit. In the interval the price of tin has doubled, or nearly so, and we are advised by experts that it is considered tin will likely remain at a high price for a long time. Now, the situation in our lode mining is that we do not work by tribute as in alluvial mining, but that we pay a day's wages for a day's work and take our chance of the proceeds. It will be obvious to you that if it were considered possible to work the Rin Lode at a profit when tin was about £60 a ton, it should be possible to work it at a very much higher profit when tin is about £120 a ton. The difference in price, indeed, must chiefly go to profit. Of that favourable change in the situation of affairs you are, however, as well able to judge as I am, and all that I have to say is that we intended to push forward the erection of machinery with all reasonable speed in order to take advantage of the favourable price of tin. If the lode develops in the manner that the mining manager expects, and if the value of tin remains at anything like its present price, it can scarcely be doubted that in the Rin Lode you have an exceptionally valuable property. Now, gentlemen, if you have any questions to ask I will be glad to try to answer them.

There were no questions; and the report and accounts, as laid before the meeting, were adopted.

Dr. Lim Boon Keng, the retiring director by rotation, was unanimously re-elected, as was the auditor, Mr. Gunn.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

THE CHINESE IMPERIAL MARITIME CUSTOMS LONDON OFFICE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR.—A correspondent in your issue of to-day says that there is no similarity between the Hongkong and London offices of the I. M. Customs, the former being run on the same lines as one of their offices in a treaty port and combining the functions of a police court, inquiry or detective-office, a collection-office, a political agency, and a coast-guards establishment, whilst the latter is merely a commercial agency. As regards the Hongkong office he is correct, and he might have added that since the cession of the new territory to this colony they have been collecting dues on goods imported from abroad into British territory, such being the case. In saying that the London office was merely a commercial agency, however, he is, I think, under a misapprehension, for if so what commercial business do they transact? It is true that they order and forward stationery, not to mention the examination and forwarding of duffers for filling vacancies in the staff, but there the commercial business ends. A commercial agency would naturally be located in the city, whereas the Customs London office is located within a few paces of all the great Offices of State, the Colonial Office and the Foreign Office in particular coming within its influence.

At all times, and especially in the event of any crisis in China, there are constant communications passing between it and the Foreign Office and Colonial Office and it has become such a regular thing that when one of the Permanent Secretaries is in doubt as to what advice he is to give the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, or the Secretary of State for the Colonies, as the case may be, he immediately communicates with the establishment at Storey's Gate or intimates that a call from the head of that office will oblige. The matter in question is then discussed and there and then settled. Why on earth the British taxpayer is called upon to maintain the very expensive Ministerial and Consular staff in China it is hard to say if they are to be nullified by this Chinese political agency in London.

Amongst the Chinese Customs officials are to be found quite a number of noodles who are related to the various permanent officials of our great Offices of State and whose claims to the appointments they hold are chiefly the fact that their relatives mould British policy in the Far East. Nobody who reflects on the matter will suppose for a moment that a commercial agency for forwarding stationery and incapables will require a manager drawing over three thousand pounds a year in salary and allowances, not to mention several other functionaries paid on a similar liberal scale.

The Customs is not to blame for this state of affairs, but our own officials, whose laziness or cupidity has allowed them to become as potter's clay in the hands of a man who knows his business, but whose business and interests are at all points conflictive with the interests which British officials are supposed to safeguard and protect.

OBSERVER.

Hongkong, 4th May, 1899.

ACCOMMODATION FOR THE CUSTOMS OUTDOOR STAFF.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Dear Sir.—I have seen many injustices and slights practised on the outdoor staff of the I.M.C. before now, but it seems to me that nothing short of gross neglect and indifference has been the cause of the scandalous way they have been put to live in little dog kennels, as your correspondent "Truth" terms them. Months have elapsed since the boundary line was defined; indeed, when I left the service last August there was little else talked of, yet I read that no proper provision has been made for the accommodation of the outdoor staff, among

them three or four married people with families. These, then, have been compelled to live in places fit for the I.M.C. "Braves" only. I will not trespass further on the space of your columns.—Yours obediently,

CHAS. A. ROBERTS.

Manila Club, 2nd May, 1899.

THE SEQUEL TO THE TUNGKUN INVASION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR.—I note in your issue of to-day that a rebellion has broken out in Waichow and Chiu-chow, two districts adjoining that of Tungkun. Having been many years in Chinese Government Service, several of which were spent in the Chinese Navy, where I saw much of the official working of the province of Kwangtung, and having a number of well informed Chinese friends both amongst the official and commercial classes, I had rather anticipated this outbreak, in fact, more than that; I knew it to be brewing many months ago.

This outbreak is the fruit of the recent official instigation of the armed opposition to the British occupation of the Hinterland, and it is in this way that the duplicity of the Chinese Government is visited, in the long run, on their own head. It was so when they secretly intrigued against the French in Tonkin and the Japanese in Formosa after the cession of those two places, for the bands of marauders they then armed, when driven out by the French and Japanese from Tonkin and Formosa—though neither of those two places are entirely clear of them yet—were compelled to resort to Chinese territory; hence it is that Kwangtung, and Kwangsi in particular, have for the past few years been overrun with bands of armed men who from time to time defy the authorities who have called them into existence.

On Saturday afternoon two Chinese gunboats loaded with soldiers were observed to pass through the harbour and out through the Lye-moon Pass. These were evidently bound for the seat of the disturbance.

It was a clever trick on the part of the provincial high officials to attribute the opposition to the British flag hoisting to the secret societies, and it is quite possible that it may yet succeed in its object, viz., after raising the natives against the British they may get British assistance in exterminating the secret societies, whom they dread. It is the old story of playing off two of their antagonists against each other and then chuckling over the conflict.

The British officials are too fond of running to Chinese sources, such as the Maritime Customs officials, for their inspiration, and it is not unlikely that it was from this source that the secret society yarn emanated. It is reported, I cannot say with what truth, that it was acting on the advice of the Kowloon Commissioner that the crazy Canton pilgrimage for help was undertaken.

As regards the secret societies, their members have truly been very active in arming themselves under the instructions of their leaders for months past, and it is with breech-loading and repeating rifles they supply themselves, at considerable cost, but their object was not to oppose the British but to seize the opportunity, provided them by the Chinese Government, to arm and organize for rebellion against the Manchu Dynasty, whom they are sworn to depose whenever possible. It is quite possible that this rebellion will be promptly suppressed, but I am inclined to think it will spread for some time; in any case it is the forerunner of further troubles and lawlessness throughout the Southern Provinces, fast breaking away from the control of the Chinese officials.

BRITISHER.

Hongkong, 10th May, 1899.

THE PEACE CONFERENCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

DEAR SIR.—In your leader of May 10th you remark: "Although China may be allowed a seat at the Peace Conference, she will be but a lay figure, as now that she is known to have no strength she is looked upon with thinly veiled contempt." But is it not this same Force which the Conference proposes to treat with con-

tempt? And who, I ask, more worthy to sit at such a conference than China, whose present unhappy state is due to lack of it, and to having accomplished centuries ago what we only preach and dream about to-day, viz., the subordination of brute force to morality and intellect? The truth is that if we were true to our ideals, instead of despising we should admire what we are apparently unable to imitate in our present stage of evolution; and the only reason that I can see why China should not be represented at the Conference is that she may throw a damper upon the whole business if she is asked what her experience has been of the insane policy of supposing that humanity at large could be taught to respect anything but Force.—I am, etc.,

CONSISTENCY.

Canton, May 10th, 1899.

AN ORDINANCE FOR THE REGISTRATION OF SERVANTS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—Since the recent robbery of gold watches at my house at the Peak by a substitute boy I have had cause for some reflection, not alone by reason of the loss, which is sufficiently annoying, but because of the revelations which have been made to me by numerous sympathetic friends. From the accounts I have received and from statements made elsewhere it would appear that robberies from the houses of British and foreign residents are constant and increasing, while the convictions in cases reported—some are not reported to the Police—probably do not amount to 5 per cent. of the whole. In many cases valuables are carried off and promptly disappear at Canton or other places on the mainland; in very few instances is the property retained in the Colony; and the Police, as a rule, have but a slender trail to go upon. Now, Sir, it is an undeniable and patent fact that nearly all of these robberies are committed either by or with the connivance of our domestics. I do not wish to impugn the honesty of the entire class, but where there is only a slender basis of moral responsibility, opportunity only too readily makes the thief.

The Colony has grown so rapidly of late, and the demand for servants has been so sustained, that the supply of decent or even partially trained domestics is considerably short of the inquiry. Thus it often happens that residents, and more especially new comers, in their eager desire to settle this trouble, engage servants without making sufficient inquiry into their antecedents. Applicants usually present some written testimonials or papers certifying their employment and occasionally giving recommendations in which the amiable wish not to entirely blast a man's chance obviously struggled with the sense of duty to his fellows when penning the non-committal phrases most frequently found on these well worn documents. How many times these "testimonials" have changed hands, or at what price they are hired out, it would be bootless to inquire, but we may be sure that they are considered transferable by the original possessors. Occasionally some housekeepers are so pushed for domestic aid that they waive the production of papers and content themselves with some inquiries, which the aspiring Ganymede finds no difficulty in answering, having probably previously interviewed the other servants. Small wonder is it, therefore, that rogues who have "done time" in Victoria Gaol and bad characters who are wanted for offences on the mainland should often be found in places of comparative trust in the households of foreigners in this Colony. Not long ago a lady who was robbed of some jewellery by one of her servants, on giving particulars of the absconder, was informed by the Police Inspector that this servant was a well known "gaol bird."

It will be seen then that a great and ever growing danger exists in our midst. How is it to be met and overcome?

When I first arrived in the Colony, more than twenty years ago, there was in force a system for the registration of servants, which, so far as it went, worked well and formed some guarantee for the respectability of domestics. The servants were duly registered at the Police Office, if I remember rightly, and on leaving a place the employer was supposed—and usually complied with the requirement—to fill in the date of termination of engagement.

But the system after a time fell into disuse because registration was not compulsory. Like all things of the kind it soon ceased to be binding as it was voted too much trouble by the lazy, which is always the larger, section of the community. Now, Sir, what I propose is that the Government should draft a Bill to be called the Masters' and Servants' Ordinance, which should provide for the compulsory registration of all domestic servants. There is such an Ordinance in Ceylon, I believe, which might perhaps serve, in some particulars, as a model for such a Bill, but if not it would be a very simple matter to draw one up to meet the requirements of the case. Ordinance No. 15 of 1860 for the Registration and Regulation of Boatmen and others might in some details provide a useful guide for the purpose, but the main provisions should include:—

1.—Registration (preferably by the Police Department) of all Domestics (whether boys, coolies, gardeners, or amahs), who should pay a fee of 25 cents on registration and a similar fee be collected from the employer.

2.—Each registration ticket should have attached to it a photograph of the person registered, and the document should be so drawn up as to provide columns showing name, birthplace, age, first employment, with room for further entries.

3.—The employer should be furnished with a card bearing the number of such ticket, the photograph of the servant, and particulars of service, to be surrendered to Police Office when the servant concluded engagement.

4.—Any conviction before the Magistrate should be endorsed on the offender's ticket.

5.—Any robbery occurring in a house during such servant's employment and in which no conviction was secured should be noted on registration tickets.

6.—Each substitute servant should be registered, no matter how short the term of leave taken.

7.—Every servant employed in any house in any domestic capacity who fails to produce a registration ticket when demanded to be liable to a fine of \$25 or six months' imprisonment.

8.—Every person employing or allowing to be employed any unregistered servant, to be liable, on conviction, to a fine of not less than \$50.

The above are the main provisions necessary, I think, of the Ordinance I propose should be enacted. It would entail no hardship on any person, and it is essentially necessary for the security of property and the preservation of good order. At present we are fast drifting into a condition of insecurity which is, to say the least, most disquieting and uncomfortable. It would also be a source of protection to respectable servants, who would then be secured from the competition of persons of bad character.

The working of the Ordinance would of course impose additional labour on the Police Department, but that need present no difficulty as the fees paid would yield a considerable revenue, which could provide for an increase of the staff. The Ordinance would also prove of most material assistance to the Police in detecting criminals besides serving as a preventative to crime.

I believe this proposal will be welcomed by the large majority of employers and cordially approved by the Police Authorities, but there are sure to be objections raised to it by persons who hate trouble of any kind. I would beg the Government to disregard any such grumblers. If the proposal becomes law they would speedily learn to recognise its value and regard it as an insurance against robbery and misconduct on the part of their servants.

Trusting that you, sir, will see your way to support this proposition,—I beg to remain, yours faithfully,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX.

Hongkong, 11th May, 1899.

SCOTCH VOLUNTEER COMPANY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—Referring to the letter of our worthy Vice-President on this subject of date 21st April. I have now to inform you that certain good men and true have responded to the appeal by sending in their names for enrolment, but

not so far in sufficient numbers to justify any decided action to be taken.

The company proposed need not entirely be composed of Scotsmen; our English and Irish brothers are made heartily welcome. For the information of *Britishers*, then, I may mention that the authorities have authorised an Infantry Company of, say, fifty men and officers, and it seems to me under the changing conditions of an expanding Hongkong that an Infantry unit has certain points to recommend it. I shall be pleased to receive additional names of recruits for this company.—Faithfully yours,

JAMES M. FORBES,

Hon. Sec.

Hongkong St. Andrew's Society.

Hongkong, 4th May, 1899.

THE EXTENSION OF THE SHANGHAI SETTLEMENT.

Shanghai, 5th May.

The extension of the Settlement north of the Yangkingpang is settled at last. The Chairman of the Municipal Council, Mr. J. S. Fearon, and the British and U.S. Consuls-General, aided by their German colleague, have worked hard and continuously to achieve this long-sought end, to bring to a practical conclusion the long-conceded principle, and have succeeded at last. Except that we take nothing of the hinterland of the French Settlement, the old Great Western Road being the southern limit, the boundaries of the extension on this side of the Soochow Creek follow the line given by us in the *Daily News* of the 23rd of February last, while the boundary of West Hongkew is extended up to but not within the Paoshan frontier, and East Hongkew is extended beyond the Point down to the Plague Station, taking in the Floor Mill. The town that is growing up round the railway terminus is unfortunately not within the extension but the Council is promised rights of policing, lighting, and sanitation in it. Nothing is granted on the Pootung side. It is not all we want, but it is a very fair portion of what we want, and it will take us some time to digest this. Mr. Fearon has done well and the thanks of Shanghai are heartily accorded him and all those who have acted with him in bringing the Chinese authorities to book.—*N. C. Daily News*.

CHINA TO BE REPRESENTED AT THE DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE.

The Peking correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News* says that Li Hung-chang was talking with the Dutch Minister the other day, and inquired why China had not been invited to participate in the Peace Conference next month at the Hague? The Minister was puzzled, but finally said he would telegraph to his Government about it. He did so, and promptly received instructions to ask China to send a representative. Probably the Ambassador to the Court of St. James will be selected for this honour, but whoever goes, it is certain that he will be fully as zealous in urging disarmament as the Great White Czar himself. China wants peace—and a great deal beside.

THE OPENING OF NANKING.

The opening of Nanking, the former Capital of China, to foreign trade was managed so quietly that few foreigners heard anything about it till it was all over. In accordance with the undertaking of the Chinese Government, it was officially declared open to the commerce of all nations on the 1st inst. No notification of the fact has, however, yet been given to any of the foreign officials in the neighbouring ports. A Commissioner of the I. M. Customs was duly installed in Nanking on that date, and the Chinese officials signalled the event by a liberal explosion of crackers on the river front. The honour of being the first to put cargo through the new Custom House belongs to the China Merchants' Company, who shipped seven rolls of satin to mark the occasion and make a record. The river front lots have largely been bought up by foreign firms, but it is not expected that the opening of the new port will have any great effect on trade. It is, however, a step in the right direction.—*China Gazette*.

RAILWAYS IN CHINA.

ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN CHINA,
ENGLAND AND GERMANY.

The *Kobe Chronicle* translates the following telegram from a Japanese paper:—

Peking, 27th April.

The negotiations concerning the construction of the Tsin-Ching (Tientsin-Chinkiang) Railway, have been successfully concluded between England, Germany, and China. It has been arranged that the sections between Tientsin and Tsinan, and Tsinan and Ichau, shall be placed under the control of Germany, and the section between Ichau and Chinkiang under British control. The company is in the name of a Chinese concern, the capital to be advanced being £5,000,000 at 5 per cent. interest.

An Anglo-Italian syndicate has obtained the right to construct the line from Joyau in Hupeh to Taochau in Shansi, and Messrs. Jardine, Matheson have secured rights over the line from Sinyan in Houan to Naugking via Luchau in Anhui.

PRINCE HENRY AT HANKOW.

S.M.S. *Gefion*, with H.R.H. Prince Henry of Prussia on board, arrived at Hankow on the morning of the 28th ult. Grand preparations had been made by the cosmopolitan community for his reception. The various firms were lavish in the decoration and illumination of their stately hongs. At the landing-place on the English bund stood a magnificent triumphal arch, the facings of which bore the Prince's initial "H" prettily depicted in Chinese lanterns, whilst from its pinnacles hung streamers and flags of the German national colours, and the steps leading to the water were covered with crimson cloth on which was a broad white runner. The Pavilion which had also been erected for the occasion was likewise tastefully decorated as well as the whole of the bund, which was richly festooned with flags of every nation and of every design, and myriads of Chinese lanterns. The Prince landed quietly and was met by the German Consul who introduced him to the members of the Council and the leading local merchants. After partaking of a slight repast at the German Consulate His Highness inspected a couple of the principal tea factories, and showed a keen interest in this, the chief industry of the Settlement. In the evening he attended a dinner given by the merchants at the Victoria Hall, which passed off most successfully. The following morning the *Gefion*, with the Prince on board, steamed over to Wuchang, where the royal visitor was received by H.E. Viceroy Chang Chih-tung and entertained by him at tiffin. Here the principal places of interest, including the cotton mills, were also visited. His Highness returned to Hankow in the *Gefion* at dusk and attended a dinner given in his honour by the German firm of Melchers & Co. After dinner there was a magnificent display of Chinese fireworks, including a number of fine specimens of Chinese pagodas, etc., specially imported from Canton, which lasted until 10 o'clock. The sight was pretty to a degree, great taste being shown in the illuminations of the handsome buildings on the bund. Thousands of Chinese from the native city and from across the water flocked to witness the pyrotechnic display. The laying of the first stone of the new German bund was arranged to take place on Sunday afternoon. On Monday the Prince was to visit Huangshihkong where he was to be received by Mr. Philipps, the German mining engineer, and conducted by him over the coal mines in the vicinity.—*N. C. Daily News*.

PRINCE HENRY AT WUCHANG.

During the banquet, which the Viceroy Chang Chih-tung arranged while Prince Henry was at Hankow the Viceroy proposed two toasts, one after the other. His first speech, a literal translation of which is given by the *Ostasiatische Lloyd* in its last issue, was in honour of the German Emperor, as follows:—
"I raise my glass and drink to the health of H. M. the German Emperor. May long life, happiness, and health be granted to him and to the whole Imperial House; may his reign be a

prosperous one and his subjects happy and contented. I also pray for the friendly relations between China and Germany to become more and more developed and strengthened, and for the people of both countries to enjoy the blessings of peace."

Immediately afterwards Chang Chih-tung proposed the health of his princely guest in the following words:—

"It gives me the sincerest joy to welcome your Royal Highness to the provinces under my command, which your Royal Highness has deigned to honour with his visit. For a long time already the eminent qualities of character and the brilliant accomplishments of your Royal Highness have been known to me and I know to what degree honour and justice are upheld by you. The visit to the East will have given your Royal Highness the opportunity to judge for yourself how sincere are the efforts of the Imperial Chinese Government to cultivate its relations with friendly nations and to further mutual confidence. I am firmly persuaded that your Royal Highness will be able—in events which may develop from the political relations of China towards foreign nations—to discern right from wrong and to acknowledge the true facts. Your Royal Highness will then be prepared to submit such statements to His Majesty the German Emperor and to increase the good understanding between China and Germany and to essentially develop the friendship between the two countries. I raise my glass and drink to your Royal Highness with many wishes for your health and long life; may success crown all your enterprises and good fortune be the companion of your Royal Highness in your travels."

Prince Henry replied to both toasts in the following terms:—

"I sincerely thank Your Excellency for the toasts just given in which you refer to the Emperor my Master, and myself. I further express to you my sincerest thanks for the friendly way in which you met me, and for the hospitality which you have shown me and which I have found all through the Chinese Empire, where I have had an opportunity to come in touch with representatives of the Government. I have also much at heart to further and strengthen the already existing good relations between China and Germany. With my sincerest wish for Your Excellency's good health and the assurance of my personal sympathy, I raise my glass and drink to the health of the Emperor of China."

It is somewhat significant that the Prince made no allusion whatever to the Dowager Empress.—*N. C. Daily News*.

CHUNGKING.

THE FRENCH CLAIMS.

25th, April.

Some interest is naturally felt in the reason for the prolonged stay of Monsieur Haas, Consul for France, at Chengtu, where he went some months ago to seek a settlement with the Viceroy of Szechuen of the Roman Catholic claims for destruction of property and loss of native Christians' lives in the Yu Man-tai rebellion.

We hear from Chinese sources that a proposal was made by the French Consul that the whole of Szechuen, south of the Yung-tsi portion of the province, north of the Yung-tsi, which stretches away to the south-west, and which lies west of Sui-fu and south of Ta-kien lou, including the Kien-chang valley, should all fall under French influence; this together with an indemnity of Tls. 5,000,000.

We are not informed how such a proposal was received by the Viceroy, but it is ominous that the residence of Monsieur Haas was attacked and broken into by the populace the night following.

The new line of railway now being surveyed from Kunlun Ferry on the Burmah frontier to Szechuen by the British Yunnan Co. would all be included in such a tract of country.

H.B.M. Consul Fraser has succeeded in getting the Governor of Kweichow to offer a higher reward for the apprehension of the head man of the village near Panghai, where Mr. Fleming was murdered. Mr. G. Litten is in Kweichow and has visited the scene of the murder, and is assured that this head man who

really instigated the murder is in hiding in the neighbourhood.

It is of the utmost importance that the Governor be required to bring this man to justice. We are glad to hear that Mr. G. Litten, who so ably filled the place of Consul here during the past twelve months, is likely to be promoted to be Consul at the newly opened Treaty Port of Nanning, on the West River, in the province of Kwangsi.—*China Gazette* correspondent.

THE FRENCH IN YUNNAN.

The Yunnanfn correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News*, writing under date of 28th March says:—

The English residents in this city are in a state of expectation. It is reported on good authority that the Governor of Tonkin is to arrive in this city about the beginning of April, on a visit to the Viceroy. Arrangements have been made for the Governor's journey and, should the proposed visit not take place, it is known to have been seriously contemplated. The journey from Mengtse is to be made very quickly in five days. At first it was said that the Governor was to travel in foreign state, in a coach and four, but as an ox-cart is the only wheeled conveyance that has travelled over the roads in this province, he has to be content with sedan-chair that has been made here for the occasion. One would suppose that the business which is bringing the Governor of Tongking to this city is one of considerable political importance, and as British interests are concerned there is no representative of the country in the province, much less at the seat of Government. One of the two Consuls is away on frontier delimitation work, and the other has never reached his post.

The French are everywhere, and are displaying great activity. French commissions constantly come and go. During the last month a party, on railway surveying business, has left for Szechuan, via Suifu; another on the same errand has reached Kuíyangfu; while a third party has probably reached the same city of Kuíyangfu, for the purpose of investigating the mines of the province of Kueichou. The quicksilver and vermillion mines especially, are engaging the attention of the French commission or syndicate. From native report, the province is rich in minerals. In the French railway scheme it is proposed to continue the Szechuan railway by a branch line from this city to Kueiyangfu, which may be carried on the Nanningfu, the newly opened port on the West River.

Efforts are being made to win favour with the native officials. From the Viceroy down presents of gold watches have been made to the magistrates and officers of this city. The Viceroy received a gold repeater which must be a costly and elaborately made one, as it is the talk of the city.

The Judge must be unusually patriotic as he is said to have refused the one offered to him.

THE SHANGHAI RACES.

We take from the *Mercury* the following analysis of the three days' races at the Shanghai Spring Meeting:—

PERFORMANCE OF THE PONIES.

Ponies.	1st	2nd	3rd	Nowhere	Starts
Loyalty	2	1	1	0	3
Beachnut	2	0	1	1	4
Otani	2	0	1	0	3
Interrogation ...	2	0	0	1	3
Standard Rose ...	1	2	*1	2	6
Sinbad	1	2	0	0	3
The Broker	1	1	1	1	4
Dinna Forget	1	1	0	1	3
Callisto	1	1	0	1	3
Rio Grande ...	*1	1	0	0	2
Rosa de France ...	1	1	0	1	3
Altair	1	1	0	2	4
Heidsieck	1	1	0	1	3
Shannon	1	0	1	1	3
Merrylegs	1	0	1	1	3
Pickle	1	0	1	1	3
Scotsman	1	0	1	2	4
The Outcast	1	0	1	1	3
Yangtze	1	0	0	1	2
Chessy	1	0	0	3	4

Thorn Rose	1	0	0	3	4
Charger	1	0	0	3	4
Dot	1	0	0	2	3
Merlin	1	0	0	4	5
Corbie	1	0	0	3	4
The Downcast	1	0	0	5	6

* Dead Heat.

PLACED PONIES.

Ponies.	2nd	3rd	Nowhere.	Starts.
Sandstorm	4	1	0	5
Canopus	2	*1	0	3
Briefless	2	0	3	5
Satan	2	0	2	4
Emerald	1	2	1	4
Hope	1	0	3	4
Ratlin	1	0	2	3
The Blotter	1	0	2	3
Alphabet	1	0	2	3
Impulse	1	0	1	2
Sunrise	0	4	1	5
Hermes	0	2	2	4
Queenslander	0	1	4	5
Ariel	0	1	3	4
Sandpiper	0	1	3	4
Tiber	0	1	3	4
Impact	0	1	2	3
Blitz	0	1	2	3
The Drummer	0	1	2	3
Argyle	0	1	1	2
Eolus	0	1	1	2
Offcast	0	1	1	2

* Dead Heat.

UNPLACED PONIES.

Scotland 4, Exclamation 1, Avenger 2, Nugget 1, Mountain Deer 2, Chielo 3, Brandenburg 3, Elk 2, Moose 4, Proteus 3, Will o' the Wisp 3, Sold Again 1, Snuffbox 3, Matchbox 2, Mystic 2, Dusk 3, Hands Off 3, Seabreeze 1, Senator 3, Yangtze Valley 4, Brainless 3, Tannhauser 1, Northwood 2, Klondyke 2, Yellow Dwarf 4, St. Lawrence 4, Indus 2, Laos 1, Timekeeper 3, Sayan 4, Pink 'Un 3, Pei-ta-ho 2, Chicago 3, Ravelston 1, Sport 2, Zeltinger 5, Trarbacher 4, Bonaventure 3, Casey 2, Hope On 1, Brassless 4, Lancer 3, Bree 4, Salinas 3, Mumm 3, Burlington 2.

STABLES.

Names.	1st	2nd	3rd	Unplaced.	Starts.
Mr. Buxey's	3	3	1	6	13
" Hopeful's	3	1	2	12	18
Messrs. Moli and Puff's	3	0	0	4	7
Mr. Ring's	2	4	2	4	12
" Cleugh's	2	1	3	11	17
" Robson's	2	1	1	0	4
" John Peel's	2	1	0	10	13
" Kanuck's	2	0	1	0	3
" Rex's	2	0	1	1	4
" Derick Hunter's	1	4	1	3	9
" Dryasdust's	1	2	0	3	6
" Fernando's	1	0	2	5	8
" St. Clair's	1	0	2	7	10
" Duplex's	1	1	1	1	4
Messrs. Nephew & Robson's	1	1	0	4	6
Mr. Elphinstone's	1	0	1	1	3
" Rodot's	1	0	0	8	4
" Cymrac's	1	0	0	4	5
Messrs. Ramdor & Beatty's	0	2	0	2	4
Mr. Ruby's	0	2	0	10	12
" Wheeler's	0	1	2	1	4
" Edmund's	0	1	1	3	5
" A. B. C. D's	0	1	0	2	3
" Major's	0	1	0	2	3
Capt. Hope's	0	1	0	4	5
" Four Stars'	0	0	4	5	9
" Marius'	0	0	2	5	7
" Donar's	0	0	1	2	3
" Strangway's	0	0	1	4	5
" Hampton's	0	0	1	5	6
Messrs. Pratt & Robson's	0	0	0	1	1
Mr. Frank's	0	0	0	1	1
" J. W. S. Neeson's	0	0	0	2	2
" Spencer's	0	0	0	2	2
" Hugh Owen's	0	0	0	2	2
" Ferdi's	0	0	0	3	3
" Nayler's	0	0	0	3	3
" Waverley's	0	0	0	3	3
" Hansa's	0	0	0	3	3
" Trio's	0	0	0	3	3
" Fluellen's	0	0	0	3	3
" Mosdon's	0	0	0	3	3
" Freddy's	0	0	0	3	3

Mr. Danerin's	0	0	0	4	4
" Mustard's	0	0	0	4	4
" Freshington's	0	0	0	5	5
" Ramdor's	0	0	0	5	5
" Crawford's	0	0	0	5	5
" Barley's	0	0	0	5	5
" Oswald's	0	0	0	6	6
" U Know's	0	0	0	7	7
" E. Hey's	0	0	0	9	9
" Wittowsky's	0	0	0	9	9
	30	28	30	215	303

RECORD OF THE RIDING.

	1st	2nd	3rd	Nowhere.	Mounts
Mr. Crawford	5	0	1	14	20
" C. R. Burkill	4	5	2	10	21
" A. W. Burkill	3	5	1	12	21
" Wulleumier	3	3	6	9	21
" Meyerink	2	4	4	6	26
" Cumming	2	2	4	17	25
" Reynell	2	1	1	9	13
" Gresson	2	1	0	10	13
" W. W. Cox	2	0	2	8	12
" H. E. Campbell	1	2	1	6	10
" M. Jones	1	1	2	10	14
" Dallas	1	0	2	16	19
" Machado	1	0	1	10	12
" Dietrich	1	0	0	6	7
" Ellis	0	2	0	12	14
" Thomas	0	1	0	5	6
" Moller	0	1	0	15	16
" Crighton	0	0	2	12	14
" Collingwood	0	0	1	1	2
" Davies	0	0	0	8	8
" Schroder	0	0	0	3	3
" Lerchenfeld	0	0	0	4	4
" Taylor	0	0	0	3	3
" Skinner	0	0	0	1	1
" Bevington	0	0	0	4	4
" Ramdor	0	0	0	2	2
" Henningson	0	0	0	2	2
	30	28	30	215	303

AFFAIRS IN SHANTUNG.

It is very evident that affairs in Shantung are in a very sad state, and we are afraid that our German friends will have a deal of trouble before they will be able to bring into subjection the unruly natives of that province. We have received from our correspondent a deal of valuable information which we give below. Our readers will be able to judge by this correspondence the vast amount of worry the Germans in Shantung are likely to have before they can expect make matters to work smoothly. Our correspondent has taken special pains to secure accuracy in the statements that follow, and where he could not go himself he sent reliable men to make the necessary enquiries. He is a missionary of very high standing, who began work in the Chi-me district in 1865, and have continued to work there ever since. There are now in the Chi-me district about one thousand Church members and adherents in connection with his work, therefore he naturally feels concerned about the state of affairs there, and what he hopes is that in some way there will be a turn in affairs, so that poor old China will either begin a new life, or cease to be China as she is now ruled. However, after a number of days spent in the Chi-me district he and others thoroughly believe that the following statements can be substantiated:—

I.—Early in the second Chinese month of this year (March) a sect was organized in western Chime called the Great Knife Sect. The names of ten men have been given me. It is said these men are chief leaders and under them is a leader for every ten members of the sect.

The object of this sect so far as can be learned from outside sources is unrelenting hostility to the Christian religion and to all foreigners. In front of the leaders' doors are suspended red flags about three feet square. In the centre of the flag are written four characters from the Lunyu, which seems to be understood to mean Vigilance Committee for Mutual Protection, also with the leader's name and village. It is estimated that the enrolled members now number more than one thousand and daily increasing.

II.—On the 13th of the 2nd month (March 24th) this sect began a systematic persecution

of Christians at the village of Yen-kia-chwang. I have the name of fourteen villages which have been attacked, and the names of men representing sixty families, who within twenty days attacked and robbed by this lawless and unreasonable sect. The crowd rushed into the homes of the Christians and carried off everything that could be found, also drove away cattle, mules, etc. Any who tried to protect their homes or property were savagely beaten. A number received serious injury. The persecution was confined to members of the Catholic church until early morning April 14th Wang Ihun, one of the head men living in the village of Who Liu Chwang, 50 li west of Chi-me city, led a crowd of upwards of thirty men and first looted the chapel of the American Presbyterian Church, then went to the home of Fan Heo C'hing, a member of the same church, and cleared the house of everything. The grain supply for a large family until new harvest crop, clothing, bedding, dishes, kettles, farming implements, etc. were all carried to the home of the leader. A cow was taken, which, the following day, was sold for twenty two thousand cash to one of their members and the money turned over to the treasurer of the new sect. The mob next went to Whongwo a village three li north and pillaged the homes of two Catholic families. Many of these people do not dare to return to their desolated homes for fear of still more hostile treatment. They are in deep poverty, many, who under different circumstances would aid them, are afraid to supply them with food for fear of bringing hostility upon themselves.

III.—April 15th I sent a statement of what had happened at Who Liu Chwang to the Chi-me Magistrate and told him that not only were the lives and property of my church members in jeopardy but my own life, and the lives of my preachers were threatened and asked for instruction. The Magistrate did not deign to reply or even send a card acknowledging my letter. Evidently a foreigner's passport does not count for much at the Chi-me yamen at present, one of the secretaries in the yamen told my messenger that all the complaints made by the Catholics were found to be false and the presumption was that my complaint was also untrue.

Thus far it is said no one has been arrested. Twice the magistrate has gone to the disturbed district to give the people fatherly advice and request them to obey the laws and live at peace with their neighbours. The rioters understand his action to mean, that they have his sympathy and approval in all they are doing. The men sent from the Yamen to see the wounded men, it is said, reported concerning one man, whose head was battered by the rioters so that his life was almost despaired of, that he was suffering from a severe attack of boils and not from any other injury. The Yamen runners, sent in answer to the reported complaints from the persecuted and injured people, were always entertained and feasted by the rioters, and as a rule never went near the Christians nor looked into their empty houses.

IV.—It is believed by all parties that the Chi-me magistrate, even if willing to protect the Christians in their rights, is powerless and dare not oppose this new sect. The majority of the soldiers supposed to police and preserve order in the Chi-me hien are said to be farmers, who are summoned to meet and play soldier for a few days when a visit is expected from the Governor. During the rest of the year they remain at home and carry on their ordinary occupation. Such men are not naturally much feared by their neighbours.

The persecuted people at present scarcely dare to speak in the presence of members of this sect, as they have been threatened with loss of life and confiscation of houses and land if by any means they give testimony which will lead to the arrest and punishment of any of the rioters. It is said leading members of this sect are daily seen in conversation with the various secretaries and men in the yamen, and also visit the Chief Magistrate.

V.—I have heard of inflammatory placards posted at the markets, temples, etc., extending over a wide territory. One now before me states: Foreigners here come to Tsin-tao to injure the people. Day by day the situation is growing worse. The people are to be compelled

to pay taxes, and evidently the intention is to extend the (German) boundary. What can be done to escape this evil? The people (The Chinese) have all decided to resist foreign power. All living within (German territory) or without are warned not to work for the foreigners nor to take their grain and fuel to Tsintao for sale. All who see this notice just turn back. Any who do not heed it will be seized and violently robbed. Evil men are circulating reports that the Germans are soon to collect a heavy tax monthly on all land, and that mules, donkeys, cattle, and even dogs are to be taxed.

VI.—New moon, April 18th, reports of guns were distinctly heard at the Church where we were holding religious service. Soon word came that the German soldiers had killed three Chinese and severely wounded a fourth. Upon inquiry it was learned that near the village of Yang Kia T'sun the Germans erected a beacon on the German boundary and warned the people that it must not be removed. It soon, however, disappeared. A notice was sent to the people of this village that they must either find and report the offending party or pay a fine of \$2,000. Some German soldiers afterwards came to make inquiries but could find no one in the least concerned or willing to discuss the matter. The German seized two mules and two donkeys and told the people they would keep them until they redeemed them by paying \$2,000. Some men from this village joined by others who were attending a market rushed after the Germans and began throwing stones at them. No attention was paid to the warning given by firing a shot into the air and the result was as above stated. The Chinese magistrate was entreated to hold an inquiry and take up the case. He refused to have anything to do with the case, saying these men all lived in German territory and if the Germans wished to kill their people it was their own affair. Two days later, however, the Magistrate went to hold an inquiry. It is said he feared if he did nothing there might be a riot at his yamen, as there was last autumn. This seems to be a popular way the people here have of enforcing their wishes. It is beginning to dawn on some minds that the stoning armed soldiers has a very differing meaning from stoning missionaries and native Christians, a practice that was begun thirty years ago by this people. One of the men killed was 26 years ago arrested and found guilty of taking the lead in the stoning of a missionary and hooting him out of the village where this occurred.

The present generation in this district has grown up from childhood encouraged to treat foreigners with the utmost contempt. It is said in many homes foreigners are never spoken of except to revile them. They are privately and publicly spoken of as devils as things, etc. The common name for the native converts is *Ur Kweitz*, second-class devils. The Missionaries of course are the chief ones.

What men persist in sowing they must reap the harvest. At present all join in saying that no foreigner unless strongly guarded could safely travel in some parts of the Chi-ne district. The great need of rain is adding to the unrest. Farmers are idle, waiting for rain before they can sow their spring crops.—*Mercury*.

SERIOUS FIRE AT BANGKOK.

Messrs. Clarke and Co.'s saw-mill, Bangkok, was burned down on Saturday evening, 22nd April, the blaze of the burning timber being seen over half the town. The fire began about half-past seven o'clock, and appears to have been caused by a kerosine oil lamp falling down. A watchman saw the accident, and his method of repairing the mischief was to cover the whole thing up with sawdust. There were fire extinguishing appliances handy on the premises, but the application of sawdust to the burning oil simply made a big bonfire at once, and the watchman seeing his first effort had so unfortunate a result did not think of doing anything further while there might still have been time. Instead he ran off as hard as he could, and was not seen again till next day. The flames spread with fearful rapidity. Mr. S. H. Hendricks was the first of the staff of the firm who was aware of the outbreak, but even

by that time, the fire had too strong a hold for the appliances on the spot to be of much use. A telephone message was at once sent to the Ronglaw, and in a very short time one of the big fire engines of the Royal Navy was down and at work. Others followed as speedily as possible and small engines also turned up from the neighbouring firms. The fire was got under control about nine o'clock, but it was not finally extinguished till about noon on Sunday. The whole big mill with all its valuable machinery, was destroyed. Roughly speaking the loss is estimated at £8,000. The property was insured in the London and Lancashire Fire Insurance Co., and the Commercial Union Assurance Co., Limited. Valuable assistance was given by the neighbours, and by the police under Mr. Richardson, Mr. Grove, and Mr. Lawson.—*Bangkok Times*.

AN ARTISTOURAT BEFORE THE MAST.

An able seaman was discharged for disability through illness from the ship *Torridale* on Tuesday. A similar proceeding has often occurred before and is likely to again. There is something unusual, however, about this particular case. It does not emanate from the discharge itself. It is the man that makes it so.

Captain John Traoy Willoughby, a mining engineer, recent of Matabeleland, South Africa, and one of the leaders in the Jameson raid in December, 1896, is the name that brings forth the unusual element in the discharge.

He was given a captaincy by Earl Grey, who was in command of the forces of the Imperial British South Africa Company and it was sanctioned by the War Department. He organized a company, of 200 soldiers, at his own expense, at Tati concession, Matabeleland, and rendered valuable and distinguished services in skirmishing. While absent from his mining concessions all his cattle and other personal property were stolen, or, to put it in his own words, were invisible upon his return. A general looting had occurred; mining had taken a setback, and his services as mining engineer were not in demand. He concluded to visit England in the attempt to influence capital to invest in the African district, but the men of money were in an uncertain mood, chiefly arising from the dubious methods that Mr. Krueger, the president of the Transvaal Government, was resorting to and the evident unreliability of his conduct. He was unsuccessful in his mission, but not deterred.

Captain Willoughby then visited the Hague, where he filed a claim against the Transvaal government with Krueger's representative in that city. After many conferences the claim was rejected, and Mr. Willoughby journeyed back to England. He was perturbed, but had not given up hopes. What to do then was a question of deep consideration. He was practically penniless, but full of ambition. His second cousin, Sir John Christopher Willoughby, was director of the Mashonaland Company of his name, and was second in command of the forces of the Imperial British South African Company and who, in 1896, accompanied Doctor Jameson into the Transvaal; but to him he would not make known his condition.

On September, 8th, 1898, he was at Penarth Roads, Cardiff, where a number of sailing vessels were loading for foreign countries, and some ready for sea. His mining experiences, in America where he had been, as well as in Africa, had brought him in contact with more of the rough than refined element, but it had not altered him. He was and is a gentleman and a scholar. He had had experience with the rough element, however, and he knew how to take them, so he concluded to become a sailor, temporarily, and on that day he shipped as an able seaman on the British ship *Torridale*, which was then ready for sea and without a full crew. Sailors were scarce and no questions were asked of him as to his ability. The *Torridale* was laden with Cardiff coal for Nagasaki, and with her he came before the mast. It was not a profession according to his ethics; it was a calling only, and one with which he was unacquainted. His former attempts to cope with a new condition of things had been successful and it was his fixed determination to be so in his new role.

The *Torridale* put to sea, and he helped to man her until she arrived safely at her destination. He was willing and the ship's officers overlooked his inexperience, and he got along admirably. It was only a few weeks until he could describe the "Flemish horse," and make the "skysail" halyards taut. He discharge was that of a full "able seaman." But his seafaring days are now over. He has mining acquaintances in Hongkong, and with the money which he got on his discharge, he hopes to be able to reach his concessions in the Matabeleland, where once more he will try to regain his lost possessions.

Captain Willoughby refers to his experiences before the mast as a passing event of time. He is already a B.A. but is glad to be able to add to his name the letters A.B. He sailed for Hongkong on the O. & O. steamer *Doric* on 28th April.—*Nagasaki Press*.

CANTON NOTES.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI-SAN PO."] On the 24th ultimo a passenger-junk plying between Canton and Wangkong village in Saichin district was robbed. The usual plot was arranged. Some robbers boarded the junk as passengers before she left Canton, and when she was sailing near Pingchow, a long boat containing about twenty robbers was rowed towards her. The robbers on board the junk, on seeing the approach of their accomplices, frightened the master and crew of the junk with their revolvers and ordered them to stop sailing, which order was promptly obeyed. When the robbers were going to abstract all the valuables on board the junk, some passengers, being also armed, offered resistance, but as they were few in number, they were not a match for the robbers, who were therefore able to execute their wishes triumphantly. One of the passengers was severely wounded and died the following day.

On the 29th ultimo a destructive fire broke out in a wooden booth in the market town named Sapang, in Hokshan district, where a theatrical performance was going on for the celebration of the festival of the Queen of Heaven. There were over two thousand visitors, male and female. When the alarm of fire was raised, the people left the place in a panic, several persons being trampled to death in the stampede and over a hundred badly injured.

The price of raw silk is daily advancing, the market being very brisk. A picul of raw silk costs nine hundred and odd dollars against seven or eight hundred dollars in the last three years. The price of mulberry leaves is also very high, a picul costing two dollars and thirty cents against a dollar and twenty or thirty cents in former years.

It is reported that plague has made its appearance in Loongkong village, in Suntak district. About fifteen persons have succumbed since the 26th ultimo.

HONGKONG.

There were 2,057 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week, of whom 234 were Europeans.

Messrs. McGregor Bros. & Gow have taken over the agency of the Glen line of steamers at his port.

Mr. H. M. Hillier, Commissioner of Customs, has handed over charge of the Kowloon Customs to Mr. H. W. Brazier, Acting Deputy Commissioner.

H. M. S. *Brisk*, which returned to the harbour on Wednesday with her bows damaged, she having collided with a junk, went out to sea again on Thursday afternoon.

The maximum temperature last month was 83, on the 14th, and the minimum 59.2, on the 7th. The mean for the whole month was 69.9. The rainfall amounted to 3.14 inches.

A New York despatch of the 12th April says:—The Yankee clipper *Reuce*, which has just arrived here from Hongkong, made the voyage of more than 16,000 miles in ninety-six days, an average of more than 163 miles a day. She left Hongkong on January 4th and was loaded with 7,000 cases of firecrackers for the celebration of the Fourth of July.

At the Magistracy on the 9th May, before Mr. T. Sercombe Smith, Reginald Hopkins was again brought up on the charge of em-

bezzling \$1,000 the property of the Mutual Stores. Mr. O. D. Thomson (Messrs. Deacon and Hastings) appeared for the prosecution and asked for a further remand of one week in order to allow them time to complete the accounts. The request was granted, but His Worship intimated that it would be the last remand.

From the *Times of Ceylon* we learn that Capt. G. F. K. Hall, of H. M. S. *Narcissus*, which arrived at Colombo 24th April from China, was slightly indisposed, and Commander Napier was looking after the vessel. From the same paper we also learn that a case of smallpox was landed from the *Narcissus*, the patient being an engine-room artificer. It is believed that he contracted the disease at Singapore, where smallpox was prevailing to a great extent when the *Narcissus* called there. The case was of a confluent type, but the man is said to have been vaccinated four times.

At the Magistracy on Saturday the owner of a dust-cart was fined \$5, or 14 days, for wasting water. Mr. J. McGregor Forbes said that at about seven o'clock on Saturday morning he was coming from the Racecourse, when he saw a large amount of water flowing from a fountain into the side channel. There was a large number of people round the fountain, and defendant and one or two coolies were throwing bucketfuls of water on a dust cart. The tap of the fountain was running freely, and when there were no buckets under the tap the water was allowed to run into the side channel.

The *Times of Ceylon* of the 24th April says:—Mr. A. W. Whitlaw, Second Assistant at the P. & O. Agency, Colombo, is about to join the Hongkong Agency. The vacancy thus caused will be filled by Mr. Firth, of Bombay. The change comes quite unexpectedly, and Mr. and Mrs. Whitlaw, no doubt, regret leaving Colombo, as Colombo residents will regret their departure. The intimation was received on Saturday, and they will sail in the steamer *Chusan* on Sunday next. We hope to hear of their enjoying their stay at Hongkong, where one or two former Ceylon residents are.

The following returns of the average amount of Bank notes in circulation and of specie in reserve in Hongkong, during the month ended 30th April, as certified by the managers of the respective Banks, are published:—

Banks.	Average Amount.	Specie in Reserve.
Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China	\$2,705,374	\$1,500,000
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation	6,864,500	4,500,000
National Bank of China, Limited	446,892	150,000
Total	\$10,016,766	\$6,150,000

It is perhaps a little unfortunate for the Hongkong Regiment's reputation for marksmanship that no estimate of the killed and wounded in the recent operations in the New Territory could be framed. The *Times of India*, in an editorial note on the affair, says:—"Curiously enough, Reuter's account of the two days' disturbance makes no mention of killed or wounded on either side. A good deal of powder seems to have been blazed away, but are we to conclude that no one was hit? If so, the fighting must have been conducted upon principles peculiarly Chinese." How many were hit, and what became of the bodies? Chased about as they were, the rebels could not carry them very far.

The Italian flagship *Stromboli* arrived from Europe on Wednesday morning, and exchanged the usual salutes. She has on board Rear-Admiral Grenet Francesco, who is to take up the command of the Italian squadron in Chinese waters, consisting of the *Marco Polo*, *Etna*, *Elba*, *Amerigo Vespucci*, and two others on their way out. The *Etna*, at the date of last advices, was at Melbourne. The *Stromboli* ranks as a second-class torpedo cruiser. She is constructed of steel and well equipped, was built at Venice in 1883, was launched in 1886, and armed for the first time in 1888. Her gross tonnage is 2,183, and her registered tonnage, 1,032. She carries 36 guns, and has 7,700 horse power engines. Her dimensions are:—length, 345 feet; depth, 36 feet; and beam, 52 feet; while she has a speed of 17 knots an hour.

Apropos of the sensation caused in the United States by a speech made by Captain Coghlan, of the cruiser *Raleigh*, at New York, in which he referred to the events shortly after the battle of Manila, a representative of the *Times of Ceylon* went on board the *Immortalité*, recently on the China station, and had a talk with the Commander, Sir Edward Chichester. Sir Edward knows Captain Coghlan intimately and the information which has come to hand proved interesting to him. "Oh, yes," said Sir Edward, "I know Captain Coghlan well. He tells a very good yarn." "Have you any idea what provocation he had for speaking as he appears to have done?" "Yes, I believe there was a little friction between Admiral Dewey and the German Admiral; in fact I know there was, but it soon blew over. I suppose they 'swelled' a little as they went round the world. We all do." Sir Edward did not explain the cause of the unpleasantness, but he is satisfied that there was very little in it.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A Tokyo dispatch states that the balance of the silver yen, which remained undisposed of last year, amounted to 12,000,000 yen. Of this amount, 5½ million yen are set aside to be coined into subsidiary money during this year, 4 million yen is to be advanced to the Bank of Taiwan, and the balance has been sold at Shanghai, Hongkong, and other places, so that the disposal of all the silver recalled when the gold currency was adopted has now been arranged.—*Kobe Chronicle*.

The *Morning Oregonian* of the 28th of March announces the death at Portland, Oregon, on the previous day, of Mr. John Poyntz Munro Fraser, whom many old residents will remember in the British Consular service at Shanghai. He was appointed a student interpreter in 1859, and rose by degrees to the rank of 1st class assistant in 1866, leaving China and the service in 1874. He was a genial companion and one of the pillars of the A.D.C. After leaving China he lived for a number of years in California, where he published a voluminous history of Solano County, Cal. Then he moved to Oregon and wrote a large history of Benton and some other Oregon counties. In 1890 he went into business in New York, but returned to Oregon a year ago too ill to undertake any work, though he was able to be at church only the day before his death from apoplexy. He has left a widow, but no children. He was a man of great ability and good education, but he unfortunately threw away his chances in China to the great regret of his numerous friends. He was about sixty years old when he died.—*N. C. Daily News*.

At Shanghai on the 4th May a sad accident occurred on the Railway by the Rifle Range, whereby a little girl called Christina, daughter of Mr. F. Jovino, in the Municipal service, was seriously injured. As the 4.20 train from Shanghai was passing she attempted to run across the line in front of the engine and in doing so was struck on the head and thrown down, fortunately clear of the metals. A number of pedestrians witnessed the catastrophe, and rushed to pick up the apparently lifeless form. Her parents were quickly on the spot and had her conveyed to the General Hospital, where it was found that the top of the skull was badly fractured, and a part of the same was pressing on the brain and producing convulsions. This was speedily removed, on which the patient recovered consciousness, and is now progressing favourably. A portion of the skull bone is missing, but, as the child is but 7½ years old and of sound constitution, no anxiety is felt on that account. The driver of the train, Mr. Richter, called at the Hospital next day to make enquiries, and there stated that it was common for children to be playing on the line, and described the practice as most dangerous and one needing the urgent attention of parents and guardians.—*N. C. Daily News*.

An interesting case is at present before the Supreme Court at Shanghai. The facts are admitted and the sole question at issue is whether an intestate estate is to be administered according to English or Scotch law. Andrew

The Chingchowfu correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News* writes:—We hear that the new German port of Tsintao is developing rapidly. Three large and handsome streets are being laid out and building plots are apportioned and building going on apace. A public park is in the plan and a band and other necessities of port life are promised, including supplies of music from a military band. The railway through the province is all but begun, and as there are no engineering difficulties of any consequence, we may reasonably hope it will be finished before the century closes. An enterprising hotel proprietor promises a summer resort on the hills behind us here, which perhaps some of us may live to see.

COMMERCIAL.

SILK.

CANTON, 29th April.—*Tsatlees*.—New Season.—No settlements are reported. *Re-reels*.—New Seas n's Nos. 1, 248 are in good enquiry, but dealers are afraid that, owing to the high cost of the new Silk, the production of *Tsatlees* will be very small, and decline to give refusals. The only transaction reported is 25 bales each Nos. 1 & 2 Grant at \$770/750 per picul. *Filatures*.—Prices advanced steadily owing to the eagerness of buyers to operate. There being no stock and supplies of old season's Silk small, most of the settlements made are in new season's Silk. *Shipment* June/September. The total amount of *Filatures* and *Re-reels* settled for delivery up to October is, as nearly as can be ascertained, 7,000 bales. *1st Crop*.—A few lots of 1st crop Silk have appeared on the market, the Silk being of fair colour and quality, but owing to recent heavy rains, the early reeling will probably leave a good deal to be desired in point of cleanness. The 2nd crop is expected to be very large. Waste.—Very little has been offered during the last fortnight and prices are advancing rapidly.

CAMPBOR.

HONGKONG, 12th May.—Stocks are accumulating and a great fall in prices has to be reported. Quotations for Formosa are \$65.50 to \$68.00. Sales 80 piculs.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 12th May.—The tone of the market has improved and prices are advancing. Quotations are:—

Shekloong, No. 1, White...	\$7.80 to \$7.85 per picul
do. " 2, White...	7.25 to 7.30 "
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown...	7.12 to 7.15 "
do. " 2, Brown...	5.00 to 5.03 "
Swatow, No. 1, White...	7.70 to 7.73 "
do. " 1, White...	7.15 to 7.20 "
Swatow, No. 1, Brown...	5.04 to 5.08 "
do. " 2, Brown...	4.85 to 4.90 "
Foochow Sugar Candy.....	11.00 to 11.15 "
Salt Lumps	9.95 to 10.00 "

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per steamer *Nurnberg*, sailed, on the 14th April. For Suez:—100 cases cassia. For Havre:—1 case silk, 6 bales broken cassia, 6 bales feathers, 10 cases bristles, 20 cases human hair, 48 cases Chinaware, 275 bales canes, and 300 packages tea. For Havre and/or Hamburg:—2 cases ylang ylang, 3 cases feathers, 8 cases human hair, 10 bales cowhides, and 20 cases Chinaware. For Havre and/or Hamburg and/or London:—40 cases essential oil, 50 cases bristles, 100 cases staraniseed, and 900 cases camphor. For Hamburg:—1 case China ink, 1 case drugs, 2 cases human hair, 2 cases ivory, 4 cases cigars, 4 cases preserves, 5 cases rice paper, 8 packages tea, 10 cases curios, 13 cases blackwoodware, 14 cases private effects, 20 cases essential oil, 22 cases bristles, 30 bales broken cassia, 12 rolls matting, 50 cases tea sticks, 54 packages seeds, 64 cases Chinaware, 100 cases cassia, and 858 bales feathers. For Hamburg and/or London:—25 packages canes. For Antwerp:—4 cases cigars and 10 bales leaf tobacco. For Amsterdam:—2 cases curios and 18 pkgs. private effects. For Rotterdam:—8 cases cigars. For London:—11 cases cigars.

Per steamer *Pyrrhus*, sailed on the 18th April. For London:—610 boxes tea (12,810 lbs. congou), 57 cases blackwoodware, 84 cases Chinaware, 4 cases paper, 4 cases fans, 200 bales waste silk, 3,198 bales hemp, 30 rolls matting, 478 pkgs. shells, 13 packages feathers, 10 packages rattans, 8 packages effects, and 4 cases sundries. For London and/or Manchester:—50 bales waste silk. For Manchester:—150 bales waste silk.

For Liverpool:—2 bales hemp. For Glasgow:—15 cases blackwoodware and 2 cases sundries. For Port Said:—15 cases bangles.

Per steamer *Oceanien*, sailed on the 22nd April. For France:—494 bales raw silk, 16 cases silks, 3 cases curios, 9 cases China-ware, 6 bales broken cassia, 65 rolls matting, and 1 case silverware. For London:—10 bales raw silk.

Per steamer *Myrmidon*, sailed on the 22nd April. For London:—250 boxes tea, 1,149 bales hemp, 269 cases preserves, 13 cases milk, and 12 packages sundries. For London and/or Manchester:—50 bales waste silk. For Liverpool:—166 bales hemp. For Hamburg:—500 cases cassia lignia and 185 bales canes.

Per steamer *Babelsberg*, sailed on the 23rd April. For Havre:—5 boxes feathers, 9 cases human hair, 90 bales canes, and 100 bales bamboo-ware. For Havre and/or Hamburg:—2 cases feathers. For Havre and/or Hamburg and/or London:—15 cases bristles. Hamburg:—2 cases private effects, 6 cases earthenware, 8 cases sundries, 8 cases gongs, 10 cases human hair, 30 cases preserves, 30 bales rattan shavings, 50 bales canes, 50 cases staranised, 134 bales galangal, and 285 packages crackers. For Antwerp and/or London:—100 bales bambooware. For Copenhagen:—1 case private effects. For Lisbon:—26 cases Chinaware.

Per German steamer *Prinz Heinrich*, sailed on the 26th April. For Singapore:—35 cases wine. For Aden:—4 cases curios. For Trieste:—5 cases essential oil. For Genoa:—450 bales waste silk, 70 bales raw silk, 75 packages tea, 20 cases essential oil, and 7 cases private effects. For Antwerp:—400 bales broken cassia, 71 bales feathers, 10 rolls matting, 5 packages furniture, and 1 case pongees. For Stockholm:—1 case private effects. For Kiel:—2 cases curios. For Amsterdam:—63 cases Chinaware, 1 case curios, 1 case bambooware, and 1 case copperware. For Bremen:—882 rolls matting, 30 cases ginger, and 16 packages sundries. For Hamburg:—717 bales feathers and 7 packages sundries.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 12th May.—Bengal.—There has been a further decline in prices, the market closing quiet at the following figures:—New Patna \$785, Old Patna \$745, New Benares \$727½, and Old Benares \$745.

Malwa.—The market has been weak during the past week and rates have declined. About 60 chests have been sold since the arrival of the English mail steamer *Chusan*. Closing quotations are:—

New Malwa \$700 with all'ce of 2 to 3 catty. Old (2 yrs.) \$720 " " " to 1½ " " (3 ") \$740 " " " ½ to 2½ " " (4 ") \$750 " " " nil to 1½ " " (5/6 ") \$780 " " " to 3 " " (7 ") \$810 " " " ½ to ½ "

Persian.—There has been a good demand for superior qualities of paper-tied opium only. Latest rates are for Oily \$650 and Paper-tied from \$650 to \$760 according to quality.

To-day's stocks are estimated as under:—

New Patna 376 chests.
Old Patna 1,356 "
New Benares 183 "
Old Benares..... 89 "
Malwa 845½ "
Persian..... 1,306½ "

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1899.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
May 6	747½	757½	742½	757½	700	
May 7	747½	757½	742½	757½	700	
May 8	746½	756½	742½	756½	700	
May 9	741½	751½	735	751½	700	
May 10	737½	747½	730	747½	700	
May 11	735	745	727½	745	700	
May 12	735	745	727½	745	700	

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 12th May.—Most of the transactions have transpired in the medium quality. Superior, steady. Stocks, about 9,500 bales.

Bombay.....14.00 to 16.00 picul.
Karrache " to " "

Bengal (New), Bangoon, } 15.00 to 16.50 picul.
and Dacca
Shanghai and Japanese, ...20.00 to 21.00 "
Tungchow and Ningpo.....20.00 to 21.00 "
Madras (Best) " to " "
Sales: 1,500 bales Bengal (New), Bangoon, and Dacca.

RICE.

HONGKONG, 12th May.—The new crop promises favourably and price continue to decline. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary.....\$2.20 to 2.64
" Round, good quality..... 2.60 to 2.82
" Long 2.87 to 2.98
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 1 ... 2.95 to 2.98
" Garden, " No. 1 ... 3.10 to 3.16
" White..... 3.55 to 3.60
" Fine Cargo 3.75 to 3.83

COALS.

HONGKONG, 12th May.—Small business reported. Quotations are:—

Cardiff \$18.00 to 19.00 ex ship, nominal
Australian " to 11.00 ex ship, steady
Miki Lump } 9.00 to 10.00 nominal,
and Small }
Moi Lump ... 6.75 to 9.00 ex ship, quiet
Hongay double } 12.00 ex Godown
screened }
Hongay Lump 8.00 to 8.50 ex ship
Hongay Dust.. 5.50 to —
Briquettes ... 10.50 to —

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 11th May.—Among the sales reported during the week are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS.—Bombay Yarn:—100 bales No. 6 at \$67, 50 bales No. 8 at \$69, 1,550 bales No. 10 at \$63 to \$64, 550 bales No. 12 at \$64.90 to \$74, 450 bales No. 16 at \$78 to \$82, 50 bales No. 18 at \$82, 850 bales No. 20 at \$80 to \$87.50. Grey Shirtings.—1,000 pieces 10 lbs. Blue 5 Men at \$3.87½, 250 pieces 10 lbs. P. Chop at \$4, 5,000 pieces 10 lbs. Blue 5 Men at \$3.87½. White Shirtings.—500 pieces 48 reed at \$2.27½. T. Cloths.—300 piculs 8 lbs. Mex. C. C. at \$3.07½. Bengal Cotton.—100 bales at \$16.50, 50 bales at \$15.80, 100 bales at \$16.25, 100 bales at \$15.80, 199 bales at \$16.50. Victoria Lawns.—5,000 pieces Girl Chop at \$0.62½. White Irishes.—250 pieces fold: No. 2 at \$4.90.

METALS.—Quicksilver.—100 flasks at \$143, 100 flasks at \$143, 200 flasks at \$145.

COTTON YARN.—per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s..... 60.00 to 91.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24.....101.00 to 108.00
" 22 to 24.....106.00 to 110.00
" 28 to 32114.00 to 120.00
" 38 to 42.....125.00 to 131.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS.—per piece
Grey Shirtings—6lbs. 1.70 to 1.80
7lbs. 1.92 to 2.00
8.4 lbs. 2.35 to 3.10
9 to 10 lbs. 3.25 to 3.87½
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd. 2.30 to 2.50
58 to 60 " 2.70 to 3.35
64 to 66 " 3.50 to 4.35
Fine 4.35 to 7.65
Book-folds. 3.75 to 5.65
Victoria Lawns—12 yards ... 0.66 to 1.35
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.) Ord'y. 1.52 to 1.72
7lbs. (32 ") 1.85 to 2.10
6lbs. (32 ") Mexs. 1.62 to 1.82
7lbs. (32 ") " 2.10 to 2.75
8 to 8.4 ozs. (36 in.) 2.35 to 3.20
Drills, English—40yds., 14 to 16lbs 3.65 to 6.35

FANCY COTTONS.—Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 8lbs. 1.60 to 4.75

Brocades—Dyed 8.00 to —
Damasks..... 0.12 to 0.16
Chintzes—Assorted 0.08 to —
Velvets—Black, 22 in..... 0.19 to 0.40
Velveteens—18 in. 0.17 to 0.18

Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk (25 to 1.25
WOOLLEN.—per yard
Spanish Stripes—Sandry chops. 0.60 to 1.50
German " to —
Habit, Med. and Broad Cloths. 1.60 to 2.25

Long Ells—Scarlet 6.25 to 9.50
Assorted 6.35 to 9.60
Camlets—Assorted 12.00 to 32.00
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches, } 9.00 to 20.00
Assorted }
Orleans—Plain 7.50 to 9.00

Blankets—8 to 12lbs. per pair
3.50 to 14.00

METALS—

per picul
Iron—Nail Rod 4.25 to —
Square, Flat Round Bar ... 4.30 to —
Swedish Bar 6.00 to —
Small Round Rod 4.75 to —
Hoop ½ to 1½ in..... 5.75 to —
Wire 15/25 9.00 to —
Old Wire Rope 2.50 to —
Lead, L. B. and Hole Chop ... 9.00 to —
Australian..... 9.00 to —
Yellow M'tal—Muntz, 14/20 oz. 40.00 to —
Vivian's, 14/20 oz. 40.00 to —
Elliot's, 14/20 oz. 40.00 to —
Composition Nails 75.00 to —
Japan Copper, Slabs 88.00 to —
Tiles 87.00 to —
Tin " to —
per box.
Tin-Plates 6.25 to —
per cwt. case
Steel ½ to ¾ 5.75 to —

SUNDRIES—

per picul
Quicksilver.....245.00 to —
per box
Window Glass 5.10 to —
per 10-gal. case
Kerosene Oil 2.05 " —

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 12th May.—With a fair demand for most stocks, the market has shown more activity and a good business has been transacted, whilst rates have been well maintained, and in a great many cases show a further advance.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai.—Shares changed hands in the early part of the week at 285 and 286 per cent. prem. and later at 288, 289, and 290 per cent. prem., market closing rather quieter at 290 sellers. Nationals continue on offer at \$22 without finding buyers.

MARINE INSURANCES.—China Traders have again been placed in small lots at \$61½. Straits are on offer at \$4. In other Marine stock there is nothing to report except a small sale of Unions at \$220.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs after further sales at \$297½ and \$300 have advanced to \$307½ with small sales and buyers. China Fires are enquired for and have changed hands in small lots at \$82.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao remain quiet and neglected with only very small sales at \$29 cash. Indo-Chinas have ruled weak during the week and offers to sell at \$69 meeting with no response sellers finally accepted \$68½ and \$68, at which a large number of shares changed hands, market closing quiet at \$68½. Douglasses after sales at \$55½ and \$56 have improved to \$56½ with small sales. China Manilas and China Mutuals remain unchanged and without business.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars with a small demand and but few shares obtainable have improved to \$172 after small sales at \$171 and \$171½. Luzons have found buyers at \$48 and are now wanted at \$50.

MINING.—Panjoms have ruled quiet with sellers and but few sales at \$7.75, closing with sellers at \$7.65; in Preferences no business has been reported. Charbonnages have advanced to \$180 without sales. Queens and Olivers continue on offer at quotations without business. Jebebus have changed hands at \$10 and \$9.75, Great Easterns at \$4½ and \$4½, and Raubs at \$58½ and \$59.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have again further improved their position and after small sales at 342 and 343 per cent. prem. are enquired for at 350 per cent. prem., whilst on time a demand exists for a limited number at equivalent rates. Kowloon Wharves remain quiet, at quotation without business. Wanchais unchanged and neglected.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have changed hands at \$81, closing steady at that rate. Kowloon Lands are still enquired for at \$24 without inducing holders to part. Hotels have been enquired for and after a small sale at \$86½ suddenly jumped to \$89 with sales; at time of closing the market is a little easier at \$88. West Points continue

unchanged and without business, but steady at quotation. Humphreys Estates have changed hands at \$9½ and \$9¼, closing with further small buyers at the latter rate.

COTTON MILLS.—With no local business quotations are taken from the last Shanghai circulars.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Islands have ruled steady with sales at \$24½. Watsons have found buyers at \$14.25 ex-dividend. Electrics and Fenwicks have been enquired for without bringing any shares on the market. Ropes are on offer at \$170 with no buyers, and China Providents have changed hands at \$9.70.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	MARKET.
Banks—		[\$486.25, buyers]
Hongkong & Shanghai	1125	289 p. ct. rel. =
China & Japan, ordy.	24	21
Do. deferred	21	25 5c.
Natl Bank of China		
B. Shares	28	22, sellers
Foun. Shares	21	22, sellers
Pell's Asbestos E. A.	21	no ina
Campbell, Moore & Co.	110	10½, sellers
China Prov. L. & M.	110	\$9.7, sellers
China Sugar	1100	\$17½, buyers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Fls. 100	Fls. 74
International	Fls. 100	Fls. 75
Laou Kung Mow	Fls. 100	Fls. 78
Soychee	Fls. 50	Fls. 350
Yahloong	Fls. 100	Fls. 55
Hongkong	\$100	\$24½, sellers
Dairy Farm	46	3½, buyers
Fenwick & Co., Ger.	22½	35, buyers
Green Island Cement	100	24½, sales & sellers
H. & C. Bakery	550	21
Hongkong & C. Co.	210	126, buyers
Hongkong Electric	110	4½, sale
H. H. L. Tramways	1100	142½
Hongkong Hotel	50	58
Hongkong Ice	25	112, sales
H. & K. Wharf & G.	50	6½
Hongkong Rope	50	170, sellers
H. & W. Dock	125	3.0, p. ct. prem. =
Insurances—		1562, buyers
Canton	50	142½, sellers
China Fire	20	82, buyers
China Traders'	25	6½
Hongkong Fire	50	810, al. & buyers
North-China	225	Fls. 100
Straits	225	4, sellers
Union	50	22, al. & buyers
Yangtze	200	114, sellers
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	50	81
Humphreys Estate	110	975, buyers
Kowloon Land & B.	30	24, buyers
West Point Building	40	28, sales & sellers
Luzon Sugar	1100	\$0, buyers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fls. 250	180, buyers
Et. Estn. & O'donian	5	4½, sellers
Jebeu	5	10
Queens Mines Ltd.	25c.	5 cts., sellers
Liver's Mines, A.	5	6, sellers
Do. B.	13	3½, buyers
Punjom	16	7½, sellers
Do. Preference	1	1.80
Raubs	15s. 10d.	8½, buyers
New Amoy Dock	56½	15, buyers
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila	50	78, buyers
China Mutual Pref.	210	19, 15s., buyers
Do. Ordinary	210	24, 10s., buyers
Do. Do.	25	12, 10s., buyers
Douglas Steamship	50	66, buyers
H., Canton and M.	15	29, sales & sellers
Indo-China S. N.	210	68½, buyers
Star Ferry	7½	13.75, sellers
Tebrau Planting Co.	5	55, sellers
Do.	13	53, sellers
United Asbestos	2	1.50, buyers
Do.	10	10, nominal
Wanchai Warehouse	37½	39, buyers
Watson & Co., A. S.	10	14.25, ex div. sal

J. Y. V. VERNON, Broker.

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, 12th May.

ON LONDON.—

Telegraphic Transfer	1/11½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/11½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/11½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/11½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/0½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/0½

ON PARIS.—

Bank Bills, on demand	2.49
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.52½

ON GERMANY.—

On demand	2.02½
-----------	-------

ON NEW YORK.—

Bank Bills, on demand	48½
Credits, 60 days' sight	49½

ON BOMBAY.—

Telegraphic Transfer	147½
Bank, on demand	148

ON CALCUTTA.—

Telegraphic Transfer	147½
Bank, on demand	148

ON SHANGHAI.—

Bank, at sight	72½
Private, 30 days' sight	73½

ON YOKOHAMA.—

On demand	4 % pm.
-----------	---------

ON MANILA.—

On demand	1½ % pm.
-----------	----------

ON SINGAPORE.—

On demand	1 % pm.
-----------	---------

SOVEREIGNS. Bank's Buying Rate...10.01

GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael...52.75

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 12th May.—Freight have weakened and there is very little demand for steam tonnage, coastwise.

From Saigon there is scarcely any demand, the rate being nominally 17 cents per picul. To the Philippines a settlement of a small carrier is reported at 9 cents per picul in other directions there is no enquiry.

From Bangkok to Hongkong, a small carrier obtained 17½ outside and 22½ cents inside the bar but there is no further demand.

Newchwang to Canton several fixtures are reported at 30/32 cents per picul.

Coal freights are firm at \$2.50 to \$2.60 per ton. Moji to Hongkong to Singapore, \$3.30 per ton.

A sailer just arrived has been fixed hence to New York, the rate being private.

There are no disengaged sailers in port.

The following are the settlements:—

Gerard C. Tobey—American barque, 1,390 tons, hence to New York, private terms.

Prosper—Norwegian steamer, 488 tons, Newchwang to Canton, \$3,250 in full.

Tordeusjold—Norwegian steamer, 904 tons, Newchwang to Canton, \$7,200 in full.

Dagmar—Norwegian steamer, 921 tons, Newchwang to Canton, \$3,500 in full.

Ningpo—British steamer, 1,240 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 32 cents per picul.

Produce—Norwegian steamer, 1,002 tons, Mantung to Singapore, \$6,500 in full.

Produce—Norwegian steamer, 1,002 tons, Singapore to Hongkong (timber), \$10,750, option Shanghai, \$13,750 in full.

Lokang—British steamer, 979 tons, Saigon to Cebu, 39 cents per picul.

Kongkong—British steamer, 862 tons, Saigon to Manila, 41 cents per picul.

Yikang—British steamer, 887 tons, Iloilo to Hongkong, 17½ cents per picul.

Germania—German steamer, 1,775 tons, Iloilo to Hongkong, 7½ cents per picul.

Sabine Rickmers—German steamer, 690 tons, Bangkok to Hongkong, 17½ cents and 22½ cents per picul.

Chitlagong—British steamer, 1,241 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 20 cents per picul.

Stolberg—German steamer, 1,553 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 20 cents per picul.

Gloucester City—British steamer, 1,409 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 19 cents per picul.

Deuteros—German steamer, 1,001 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 20 cents per picul.

Kido Maru—Japanese steamer, 1,666 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 18 cents per picul.

Yedo Maru—Japanese steamer, 1,068 tons, three trips, Saigon to Hongkong, 18 cents per picul.

Kumang—British steamer, Karatsu to Hongkong, 240 per ton.

Eitrickdale—British steamer, 2,468 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$2.60 per ton.

Athenian—British steamer, 2,440 tons, Moji to Hongkong, part cargo, \$2.50 per ton.

Martha—German steamer, 1,680 tons, Moji to Singapore, \$3.30 per ton.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON.—Coromandel (str.), Candia (str.), Drestes (str.), Kawachi Maru (str.), Glaucus (str.).

For BREMEN.—Preussen (str.).

For MARSEILLE.—Salazie (str.), Kawachi Maru (str.).

For HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—Sibiria (str.), Konigsberg (str.), Heidelberg (str.).

For SAN FRANCISCO.—Coptic (str.), Nippon Maru (str.), Queen Margaret, Thyra (str.), O. of Rio de Janeiro (str.).

For VANCOUVER.—Empress of Japan (str.).

For VICTORIA, B.C., AND TACOMA.—Tacoma (str.).

For PORTLAND, O.—Lennox (str.).

For NEW YORK.—Undaunted (str.), Fortigern (str.), D. Rickmers (str.).

For AUSTRALIA.—Changsha (str.), Kasuga Maru (str.).

For BOMBAY VIA SINGAPORE AND COLOMBO.—Yamaguchi Maru (str.).

For SEATTLE VIA KOBE AND YOKOHAMA.—Idzumi Maru (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

HONGKONG.

May—ARRIVALS.

- 6, Fushun, Chinese str., from Canton.
- 6, Chingtu, British str., from Sydney.
- 6, Triumph, German str., from Pakhoi.
- 6, Sullberg, German str., from Canton.
- 6, Plover, British gunboat, from Manila.
- 6, Clara, German str., from Haiphong.
- 6, Konoura Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
- 6, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
- 6, Sarpedon, British str., from Shanghai.
- 6, Sishan, British str., from Saigon.
- 7, Benlomend, British str., from Saigon.
- 7, Dagmar, Norw. str., from Newchwang.
- 7, Hikosan Maru, Jap. str., from K'notzu.
- 7, M. Bacquehem, Aust. str., from Kobe.
- 7, Pronto, German str., from Swatow.
- 7, Tategami Maru, Jap. str., from Nagasaki.
- 7, Laos, French str., from Marseilles.
- 8, Yedo Maru, Jap. str., from Kobe.
- 8, Bellerophon, British str., from Penang.
- 8, Empress of Japan, British str., from Vancouver.
- 8, Ettrickdale, British str., from Kobe.
- 8, Kwaiyang, British str., from Hongay.
- 9, Haimui, British str., from Tamsui.
- 9, Holstein, German str., from Saigon.
- 9, Prosper, Norwegian str., from Canton.
- 9, P. C. Klao, British str., from Bangkok.
- 9, Wingsang, British str., from Shanghai.
- 9, Doyo Maru, Japanese str., from Saigon.
- 9, Cheang H. Kian, British str., from S'pore.
- 9, Hakita Maru, Jap. str., from Singapore.
- 9, Nankin, British str., from Bombay.
- 9, Taicheong, German str., from Manila.
- 9, Tritos, German str., from Saigon.
- 10, Loksang, British str., from Canton.
- 10, Whampoa, British str., from Canton.
- 10, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Canton.
- 10, Sungkiang, British str., from Manila.
- 10, Rohilla, British str., from Yokohama.
- 10, Lyeemoon, German str., from Shanghai.
- 10, Bennington, Amr. gunboat, from Manila.
- 10, Stromboli, Italian monitor, from S'pore.
- 10, Bisagno, Italian str., from Singapore.
- 10, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
- 10, Kwangping, Chinese str., from Taku.
- 10, Maizuru Maru, Jap. str., from Swatow.
- 10, Wuhu, British str., from Canton.
- 10, Loosok, British str., from Singapore.
- 10, Sabine Rickmers, British str., for Amoy.
- 10, Ariake Maru, Jap. str., from K'notzu.
- 10, Nippon Maru, Jap. str., from S. Francisco.
- 11, Chusan, British str., from Bombay.
- 11, Kintuok, British str., from Newport.
- 11, Martha, German str., from Saigon.
- 11, Changsha, British str., from Yokohama.
- 11, Coromandel, British str., from Shanghai.
- 11, Dan of Ogil, British str., from Singapore.
- 11, Miike Maru, Jap. str., from Singapore.
- 11, Machew, British str., from Bangkok.
- 11, Loyal, German str., from Hongay.
- 11, Evie J. Ray, Amr. bark, from Singapore.
- 12, Hokoku Maru, Japanese str., from Cebu.
- 12, Mailan French str., from Pakhoi.
- 12, Bergenhus, British str., from New York.
- 12, Hermes, Norwegian str., from Canton.
- 12, Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
- 12, Diamante, British str., from Manila.
- 12, Viudobona, Austrian str., from Trieste.
- 12, Chunsang, British str., from Samarang.
- 12, Hongkong, French str., from Hoihow.
- 12, Willy Rickmers, Ger. bark, from Cardiff.
- 12, Indrapura, British str., from New York.

May—DEPARTURES.

- 5, Catania, British str., for New York.
- 6, Ernest Simons, French str., for Europe.

6, Ceylon, British str., for Shanghai.
 6, Hainan, German str., for Chefoo.
 6, Esmeralda, British str., for Amoy.
 6, Loongmoon, German str., for Shanghai.
 6, Phranang, British str., for Swatow.
 6, Harnes, Norw. str., for Canton.
 6, Taksang, British str., for Swatow.
 6, Paoting, British str., for Shanghai.
 6, Kyoto Maru, Jap. str., for Saigon.
 6, Monmouthshire, British str., for Portland.
 6, Benlawers, British str., for Nagasaki.
 6, Whampoa, British str., for Canton.
 7, Sumidagawa Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
 7, Sullberg, German str., for Chefoo.
 7, Hupeh, British str., for Iloilo.
 7, Formosa, British str., for Swatow.
 7, Hoihao, French str., for Hoihow.
 7, Chittagong, British str., for Saigon.
 7, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Canton.
 8, Gloucester City, British str., for Saigon.
 8, Dagmar, Norwegian str., for Canton.
 8, Sullberg, German str., for Chefoo.
 8, Fushun, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 8, Peacock, British gunboat, for Manila.
 8, Tordenskjold, Norw. str., for Chefoo.
 8, Algerine, British sloop, for Foochow.
 9, Laos, French str., for Shanghai.
 9, Hikosan Maru, Jap. str., for K'notzu.
 9, Sarpedon, British str., for London.
 9, Pronto, German str., for Swatow.
 9, Propontis, British str., for Singapore.
 9, Nanyang, German str., for Swatow.
 9, Stanfield, British bark, for Rajang.
 9, Hailoong, British str., for Amoy.
 9, Thales, British str., for Coast Ports.
 9, Hanoi, French str., for Haiphong.
 9, Wingsang, British str., for Canton.
 9, Amigo, German str., for Port Arthur.
 9, Prosper, Norw. str., for Newchwang.
 9, Kumsang, British str., for Karatsu.
 9, Bucephalus, British str., for Newchwang.
 9, Breid, Norwegian str., for Sadong.
 10, Charleston, Amr. cruiser, for Manila.
 10, Triumph, German str., for Hoihow.
 10, Clara, German str., for Haiphong.
 10, Bellerophon, British str., for Amoy.
 10, Taiwan Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
 10, M. Bacquehem, Austrian str., for Bombay.
 10, Ettrickdale, British str., for Moji.
 10, Lyeemoon, German str., for Canton.
 10, Hakata Maru, Jap. str., for Kobe.
 10, Germania, German str., for Saigon.
 10, Tategami Maru, Jap. str., for Moji.
 10, Kwangping, Chinese str., for Canton.
 10, Cheang H. Kian, British str., for Amoy.
 10, Loksang, British str., for Saigon.
 11, Dorie, British str., for S. Francisco.
 11, Taicheong, German str., for Swatow.
 11, Henry Failing, Amr. ship, for Manila.
 11, Yedo Maru, Japanese str., for Saigon.
 11, Produce, Norw. str., for Mantung.
 11, Wuhu, British str., for Taiwanfoo.
 11, Whampoa, British str., for Shanghai.
 11, Brisk, British cruiser, for Weihaiwei.
 11, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
 11, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 11, Catherine Apcar, Brit. str., for Calcutta.
 11, Sishan, British str., for Swatow.
 11, Chusan, British str., for Shanghai.
 12, Ariake Maru, Japanese str., for Misumi.
 12, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
 12, Centaur, British str., for Amoy.
 12, Sagami Maru, Japanese str., for Shanghai.
 12, Loyal, German str., for Canton.
 12, Kintuck, British str., for Shanghai.
 12, Onsang, British str., for Singapore.

PASSENGERS LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Ernest Simons*, from Shanghai for Hongkong, Messrs. Buccellé, Mallerie, Beadle, Fujio, Arnam, S. Joseph, Donald, Mr. and Mrs. Hepstein, Mr. and Mrs. Triednan; for Saigon, Mr. H. Joseph; for Singapore, Messrs. Finger Hut, Marcey, Miss Nitchimitsu; for Colombo, Capt. Mahmoude, and Capt. Steven Ross; for Port Said, Messrs. Dimitré, Bertatigion, Rev. Antonio, Bertoli, Fostti Pietro, Elsieo Pietro; for Marseilles, Mr. Ho Yen Ching, Baron de Vink, Mr. Franz Tobbaz, Mr. and Mrs. Sharples, Mr. Kindblad, Miss Laplanche, Mr. and Mrs. Foster and infant, Mr. and Mrs. Okoshi and 3 children, Miss Okoshi, Mr. and Mrs. Chinda, Mr. and Mrs. Lisboa, Miss Lisbon, Messrs. Aspiraz, Péyre, Mrs. Ono, Mrs. Lesne, and Mr. Saphiere.

Per *Thales*, from Coast Ports, Mrs. Farrow and 3 children, and Mr. J. Hewitt.

Per *Chingtu*, from Sydney—Mr. and Mrs. Beaton, infant and nurse, Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Abbott, Mr. and Miss Roberts, Misses Dally, and A. Craig, Messrs. P. A. Lamb, McGregor, Gaddum, Scarlett, Rainsden, Guerin, Daniels, Hilson, Rev. Francis Taso, Rev. Quintin Alcade, Lasson, Regalado, Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, Mr. Yamamoto Hagashi, Miss Nagata, Mr. Gois, Mrs. Ming and three children.

Per *Kwanglee*, from Shanghai, Mr. J. Hanlon.

Per *Pronto*, from Swatow, Mr. Tamsen.

Per *Iaos*, from Hongkong, from Marseilles, Mr. Guillermo Puatin, Père Nicouban, Mme. Desjardins and child; from Port Said, Mgr. Rapioso Mereireu; from Singapore, Mr. Dickinson, Mr. and Mrs. Eng Guan, Mrs. Jino Maiez, Mrs. Nina Sherman, Mr. Mortier; from Saigon, Comte de Sumal, Mr. A. Marty, Sisters Ephrem and Alphonsus, Père F. X. Bahey; for Shanghai, from Marseilles, Messrs. Lefevre, Schooyzer, Marquis-Salvago Raggi, Italian Minister, Mrs. R. Walter, Père Cambrière; from Singapore, Messrs. Booth and Stewart; for Nagasaki, from Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. Brown and 2 children, Mrs. Omatin and child, Mrs. Toyo, Mrs. Omaha, Mrs. Osuyo; for Kobe, from Saigon, Mr. P. Bert, Mrs. Omaton, Mrs. Osio; for Yokohama, from Marseilles, Mr. Lerd and daughter, Messrs. Pacheco, Goffin, Paulussen, Barimaus, Durand, J. Losada, Mariano, Rivero, Côte, Cabacaselin; from Port Said, Messrs. Sarolidis, Benzallis, Abraham, Hauf; from Colombo, Mr. and Mrs. Adams; from Singapore, Messrs. Woog, Shibergera; from Saigon, Mr. Clouzet.

Per *Empress of Japan*, from Vancouver, Mr. and Mrs. O. K. Davis, Mr. H. D. Morrison, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Vanderlip, Mrs. C. Reeves, Mr. G. Balloch, and Mr. Him Quim; from Yokohama, Mr. J. Black, Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Palmer, Dr. A. Rennie; from Kobe, Mrs. E. F. Stoddard, Miss E. Stoddard, Miss F. Stoddard, Mr. W. D. Sutton, Vicomte de Cholet, Messrs. B. N. Foster, P. L. Foster, R. H. Jahourdin, E. Battle, Sr., and E. Battle, Jr.; from Shanghai, Mr. A. H. Ellis.

Per *Ettrickdale*, from Kobe, Mr. G. E. Harcourt.

Per *P. C. Klao*, from Bangkok, Mr. N. Headbury.

Per *Wingsang*, from Shanghai, &c., Mr. Keely.

Per *Rohilla*, for London, from Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. Alcock, Lieut. Cleaver, R.N.R. and Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Playfair and child; for Colombo, Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell; for Singapore, Mr. J. E. Hay; for London, from Kobe, Mr. A. B. Meek; for Singapore, Lieut. Col. Dantra, and Mr. M. Richards; for Hongkong, Mr. and Mrs. Learoyd; for Hongkong, from Nagasaki, Mrs. Tomi.

Per *Lyeemoon*, from Shanghai, Messrs. Harries and Jensen.

Per *Haitan*, from Coast Ports, Messrs. Vonberlgen, R. R. Black, Leek King Nam.

Per *Nippon Maru*, from San Francisco, &c., Capt. Forsyth, U.S.N., Dr. Hibbett, U.S.N., Mr. and Mrs. Webb, Mr. and Mrs. Griffin, Mr. Inuma and child, Mrs. Forrest, Capt. Everett, U.S.N., Mr. Corwin, U.S.N., Dr. J. J. Ginati, Lieut.-Col. Heary, R.A., Mr. Miya Zaki, and Rev. Yatman.

Per *Kintuck*, from Newport, &c., Mr. T. Harris, and 544 Chinese.

Per *Chusan*, for Shanghai, from Bombay, Mr. S. Murphine; for Hongkong, Mrs. Miss and Master Joseph and Mr. Richardson; for Yokohama, from London, Mr. Appach; from Colombo, Mr. Shakaspere; for Shanghai, from London, Messrs. Griffiths, Gibson and Henri Noel; from Marseilles, Mr. Robinson, Dr. and Mrs. Fisher and Mr. Racé St. Pol; from Port Said, Mr. A. L. Warner; for Hongkong, from Aden, Lieut. Roper; from Ismailia, Messrs. R. Cochran and J. Haston; from Colombo, Mr. A. Simpson and Mr. and Mrs. Whilow; for Yokohama, from Marseilles, Mr. L. Taylor, Misses Taylor and Mactier; from Venice, Mr. L. Peck; from Singapore, Mr. Coldfield; for Shanghai, Major McDonald, Mr. Peart; for Hongkong, Mr. Wheeler, Madame O'Gorman, Mr. H. Beers, Mr. J. Stafford and Mr. A. Colbourne; for Yokohama, from London, Mr. W. G. Blackall.

Per *Coromandel*, from Shanghai, for London, Mrs. Tuckey and 2 children, Mrs. Creed, Miss Annerlow, Mrs. Gray Owen, Miss Spink, Miss Wilson, and Miss Fawson; for Bombay, Mr. R. S. Raphael; for Singapore, Mr. S. D. Martin; for Hongkong, Capt. Rickmann, Messrs. R. B. Johnson, C. J. Miller, J. S. Gubby, J. Neumann, Mrs. R. Kruger, Messrs. B. Carion, F. Viccajee, and Miss Danenburg.

Per *Diamante*, from Manila, Messrs. J. Abad, R. Arellano, J. Ramirez, F. Z. Pilapit and son, Mr. and Mrs. Arozco, Miss Arozco and 2 children, Mr. Leon Galdeleano, Miss Ysabel, Miss Catmen, Miss Natividad and 3 children, Messrs. N. Mayer, Felipe Segura, Tomas Roldan, Castedelgado, Miss H. Romero, Miss Arellano, Mr. Mr. H. Zubeldra, Mr. and Mrs. Cano de Santelana, Messrs. Juan Perez, Bablo Navarro, Estaban Arcona, H. F. Kruse, Manuel Espelta, Gabino Arpon, F. Sanchez, Vicente Fernando, Tod, J. Andrews, F. Fell, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Hines, Mr. Thomas James, and Mrs. B. Tamio and child.

DEPARTED.

Per *Yuensang*, for Manila, Mrs. C. G. de Arce, Mr. and Mrs. Green, Mr. Turner and 3 children, Messrs. S. Haywood, C. H. Horsey, Chas. Sterling, S. B. Price, Lucio Angeles, U. S. Nicholson, Gil, C. M. Sandford, J. H. MoHenry, A. S. Trevor, Mrs. Juliana Benavideo, and Mrs. V. B. de Abad, infant and sister.

Per *Esmeralda*, from Hongkong, for Amoy, Mr. and Mrs. E. Bonear, and child; for Manila, Mr. and Mrs. F. M. de Jesus, and child, Mr. F. Schwalbe, Mr. and Mrs. Wildman.

Per *Ernest Simons*, from Hongkong, for Saigon, Mr. P. Guévin; for Singapore, Messrs. T. S. Hope Simpson, l'Abbé J. B. Martinet, L. Eguia, and Miss Schinker and one child; for Colombo, Mr. J. S. Fenwick; for Marseilles, Messrs. C. Gsell, J. Alio, J. C. Hillson, G. Kowaki, J. Clotet, O. Camps, S. Farré, Mr. and Mrs. Farrow and three children and Mr. and Mrs. German Geribaldi.

Per *Ceylon*, from Hongkong for Shanghai, Messrs. E. J. Thirkell, Fred. S. Hadra, and J. A. Stagg; for Nagasaki, Mr. Mordant; for Kobe, Messrs. P. Newson, T. Remick, and Ar S. Covil. For Shanghai from London, Mr. F. A. P. May, Major and Mrs. H. H. Starr, and Mr. J. H. Teesdale. For Kobe from Port Said, Mrs. G. T. Croxton, and Miss Burpee. For Yokohama from London, Mr. W. Walter, Mr. and Mrs. W. Wallace, and Mrs. Cameron; from Marseilles, Mr. Soley; from Singapore, Mr. A. J. Wicks.

Per *Laos*, for Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Cass and 2 daughters, Miss Roberts, Messrs. C. Braemer, H. W. Andrews, S. Clausen, R. M. Gray, Roberts, G. E. Grattan, D. McGregor, H. Cornell, A. J. Ellis, Revs. J. Jaso and G. Alcade; for Nagasaki, Miss R. Pois, Miss Nagata, and Mr. S. B. Yagi; for Kobe, Miss Thompson, Messrs. J. J. Hernandez, A. H. Nimmo, E. Thompson, E. A. Otari, B. Hernandez, Mr. and Mrs. Spencer, Mr. and Mrs. Delaphalme, Messrs. P. Chavanne, F. Dettmer, and J. M. Hunter.

Per *Thales*, for Foochow, Mr. and Mrs. Murray and child, Mr. W. Julinsberg, Rev. Mother Felicie, Sisters Ephrens, Alphosine and Gwazague, and Mr. G. Balloch.

Per *Dorie*, for Shanghai, Messrs. Louis E. Dartnell, L. L. Etzell, G. Reiffinger, A. Gaddum, Mrs. C. Bruce, Miss M. Bruce, Mrs. C. Penrose, Mrs. R. Lee, Miss Harrison, Miss A. Harrison, Messrs. J. H. Norris, Chan Chuk Chang, and M. Donovan; for Kobe, Mr. P. A. Lamb, Mr. and Mrs. L. Beston and infant, and Miss M. Dalley; for Yokohama, Major Watson, Major and Mrs. Koe, Misses G. M. Koe and E. Koe, and Mr. J. J. Lelle; for Honolulu, Miss Grace Davis, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Haddon, Mr. and Mrs. A. V. Hunter, Mr. and Mrs. Ahi and infant, Master Chi Hong Chong, Master Chin Hong Quong, and Miss Chin Hong Mee; for San Francisco, Messrs. A. Martins, C. F. Davis, F. Clausen, S. P. Johnson, Mrs. M. Hunt, Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Pfingst, Miss M. Callghan, Miss B. Nevio, Mrs. Grace N. Cook, Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Richardson; for Boston, Rev. and Mrs. E. Abbott; for London, Mr. J. McGregor.

Printed and Published by D. WARREN SMITH,
 29, Wendenham Street, Victoria, Hongkong.